

# SEVEN DAYS

## ON THE RECORD

New details emerge  
in Brunette shooting  
PAGE 14

# GRAY is the new ORANGE

Vermont's prisons struggle to  
accommodate an aging population

BY KATHRYN FLAGG  
PAGE 30



## TALKING TRILLIN

PAGE 22

New Yorker humorist heads to VT

## NORWEGIAN WORKOUT

PAGE 24

Pulleys, racks and slings, oh my!

## NO-WHEAT TREATS

PAGE 40

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BIG FAT NO CATTLE 8PM

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WITH RAPHAEL  
11AM (Slow)

**BRUNCH**  
THIS WEEK  
GREEN DRINKS  
8PM-9PM (Slow)

**BRUNCH**  
MONT. NIGHT  
8PM

**BRUNCH**  
HEAVY HUMP DAY  
8-10 PM (Slow)

JOHN PANDA'S AUGUSTIC  
SOUL NIGHT 8PM (Slow)  
CAJUN JAM WITH JAY EKS, KATIE  
TRAUTZ & FRIENDS (Music)

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ERIC GEORGE 7PM

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## Vermont Town Hall



### A CONVERSATION WITH BILL MCKIBBEN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, AT 7:00 P.M.  
Bill McKibben is the author of a dozen books about the environment, and the founder of the global grassroots climate campaign 350.org. Time Magazine dubbed him "the planet's best green journalist" and the Boston Globe called in 2010 that he was "probably the country's

most important environmentalist." McKibben will be in conversation with Vermont journalist and bestselling author David Goodin on.

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prudent property values and enjoyment of the lake for me and my neighbors.

But this is not the case in other towns. Only about a quarter of Vermont municipalities have local standards to protect lakes and ponds. Inconsistent approaches among towns threaten our use of lakes and ponds for recreation, drinking water, wildlife habitat and flood protection.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that 82 percent of Vermont's shorelands are in fair to poor condition—substantially more than Maine's and New Hampshire's. We now have an opportunity to slow, and even reverse, this situation with a bill pending in the legislature that is not designed to stop development on lake-shores. Nor will it prevent property owners from mowing their lawns or appropriately thinning trees for views. Rather, it will provide consistent standards that major improvements will have to meet.

I know firsthand that it is possible to thoroughly enjoy all the amenities of a lake—swimming, boating and sunset vistas—with shoreline restrictions in place. Plus, I have the added benefit of knowing that my property values are protected, my family's drinking water is safer, the water we swim in is cleaner and the bank we are playing along the shore will be there for years to come.

Elizabeth Harnoise  
DANVILLE

*Harnoise is the chair of the board of directors of the Vermont National Resources Council.*

## BLIND MECHANIC: THE MOVIE

Thanks for your profile of Ediel Harnoise, the Charlotte-based car mechanic ["Auto Mechanics," January 6]. A short film portrait of Ediel, called "Ediel the Blind Mechanic," was made by Andrew Grymes. The film premiered at the Vermont Filmmakers' Showcase at the 2013 Vermont International Film Festival. For further information about the film, contact info@ediel.org.

Orly Yadin  
BURLINGTON

*Yadin is executive director of the Vermont International Film Festival. Ediel's note: We learned about Ediel Harnoise from Grymes's film, in fact, and wrote the print version with her knowledge.*

## NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT IT

Paul Hoota's column summarizes the bill being pushed through the Vermont legislature right now to change the ancient sherman laws that criminalize sherman [see page 4, "A Choice Change," January

16]. In the article, Mary Helen Reesworth, executive director of Vermont Right to Life, calls the discussion "a joke." I ask Reesworth, though, who is laughing? For a woman seeking reproductive health care, her decision is not "a joke." Women should not be harassed, bullied, judged, shamed or laughed at by someone who opposes the decision she has made about her own pregnancy.

Reesworth goes on to describe the bill as "nonserious." Again, I question what is "nonserious" about amending an outdated and unconstitutional statute written almost two centuries ago, in 1844. This statute sends the wrong message about Vermont's position on reproductive health care and, in 2014, needs to go. As a young woman who is very aware of the often-debasing debates that occur in legislatures across the country, I can assure you that this is not a joke. As we move forward in Vermont, I hope our legislature becomes a shining example for the rest of the country by passing this bill and ensuring safe and affordable reproductive health options for women.

John Dwyer  
BURLINGTON

## ALL RONK

[Re Maria Rivera, "Dariusz Wlodek Dances," January 6]. It would be more believable if the Coco brothers had said the film was inspired by an article in *Car Place* magazine instead of Dave Van Noke's *Newsweek* article, "The Mayor of MacDougal Street." Van Noke was a tongue-jagger about his brilliant, charismatic, influential musician. How he inspired such a shy, depressed, mediocre character like Dariusz Wlodek is one of the great mysteries of *Goodbye, I'm glad the cat got away before the film ended. He was the smart one.*

Christine Lavin  
NEW BOSTON CITY

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MON 107 MONAGHAN 7PM  
TUE 108 MONAGHAN 7PM  
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### VIDEO SERIES



Abstract: The purpose of this study was to determine the effect of a 12-week training program on the physical fitness and health-related quality of life (HRQL) of elderly people. The study was conducted in a community center in a large city in Brazil. The sample consisted of 30 elderly people (15 men and 15 women) aged 60 to 75 years. The training program consisted of 12 weeks of aerobic and resistance training, three times a week, for 45 minutes. The physical fitness and HRQL were assessed before and after the training program. The results showed that the training program had a positive effect on the physical fitness and HRQL of the elderly people. The study suggests that a 12-week training program can improve the physical fitness and HRQL of elderly people.



**Stuck in Vermont.** Burlingtonians gathered at Magliano's Cafe after hours last week to hang out and compete in a Little Art Throwdown.

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①

## FRIDAY 24-SUNDAY 26 GETTIN' SASSY

Have winter dampened your spirits?

• **Vermont Baroque Festival** is a perfectly timed calm-before-the-storm. More than 55 performers descend upon one's winter, at which a variety of shows meet country, folk, and bluegrass. Headliners include the *Mountain Squires*, James Taylor, and *Bring Back the 60s* to head-squish Vermonters.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 45



②

## SATURDAY 25 Golden Oldies

As the saying goes, "the best is yet to come," it should be more than true at the **Vermont 50+ Film & Sassy Screeners Expo**, which combines 50 exhibitors devoted to celebrating aging gracefully. Learn more on films of all kinds, who take when tips of themed seminars, workshops, and wellness presentations.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 33

③

## TUESDAY 28 Emotional Eats

Ever tried to lose weight but just can't or felt energized after a trip to the gym but? An idea with coach Leah White connects the dots between culinary habits and long-term health. Her specialized workshop **Food & Mood** is a participants learn about how "hidden eating" helps to better well-being.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 32

④

## FRIDAY 24-SUNDAY 26 Chilling Out

Looking to see what's new? Montpelier's **Festival** offers three days of all ages events and great to go music, physical activity, ice skating, and other fun. It's off with the Winter Blues Festival, then continues with snowmobiling, a 24-hour snow machine, a break through the snow, and more snow.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40

⑤

## FRIDAY 24 "a Last Word

Anything that begins a good story is a great letter. Recently the world's oldest art fair, starting with a letter of the most versatile. At the **Extempore Fall 60**, writers and artists take the stage in a tournament of champions, where they present their final piece to the public press.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 38

⑥

## ONGOING Nature's Bounty

Vermont's landscape has inspired countless artists to capture the state's dignified, seasonal beauty. *Sketches of Vermont* is a series of paintings by Robert and Helen Harniss in "Wooded Places." Working in pencil through the woods, large-scale water prints of nature's beauty are the result. Under the black ink, sketches of small forest creatures and fallen leaves.

SEE REVIEW ON PAGE 10

⑦

## SATURDAY 25 Big Laughs

Here's a line you'll see at the **Vermont's Funniest Comedian Women's Showcase**, you can give five jokes for the prize. One Phil Davidson, Justin Kwan, Adam Kinney, Kyle Gagliardi and Carmen Lopez appear at *Montpelier*, where they deliver a pattern of punch lines in celebration of the state's high school talent.

SEE SCHEDULED ON PAGE 35



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## Downton the Tubes

There's plenty of drama on Vermont Public Television—but off-camera, the station's experiencing its own turmoil.

Upset with a board of directors they say has gone rogue, VPT staff members mean a year's revolt against the station's vaunted leadership. They say a majority of VPT's employees plan to attend a board meeting next Monday to demand that chairwoman **PAM MACDONALD** and vice chairman **BUD NORMAN** resign.

"We feel betrayed by the board," says VPT major gifts director **CHUCK BONGIORNO**. "I've been in the nonprofit world for 30 years, and I've never seen behavior like this."

"This is a rogue board that has gone out of control and is acting in a way that's hurting the institution they're supposed to be supporting," says **BONGIORNO** again, the station's on-air fundraising manager. "I find it appalling."

The staff instruction stems from an anonymous complaint submitted to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting on Christmas Eve. The letter alleges that Macdonald, Hoffmann and others hold at least 20 secret board meetings over the course of two years, during which they "run down business, voted and acted on behalf of the board."

"Board leadership has routinely, deliberately disregarded open meeting requirements, despite repeated attempts by president and CEO [Norman] and staff to provide recommendation and training on CPB open meeting and certification requirements," the anonymous complaint says.

VPT announced on January 5 that CPB—which provides nearly 16 percent of the station's \$19 million operating budget—is investigating the complaint. The station's spokesperson, **ELIZABETH METZGER**, declined to answer questions about the situation, saying, "Management and staff can't speak to ongoing legal issues with the board, so we have no comment on the CPB investigation."

VPT could face significant fines—including complete withdrawal of CPB support—if it is found to have violated the Communications Act of 1934, which mandates that federally funded stations hold "open meetings provided by reasonable notice to the public." CPB assistant inspector general for investigations **MELVIN HOLLOCK**, who is overseeing the VPT inquiry, did not respond to a request for comment.

According to Bongiorno, Neff and other staff members who would not speak

on the record, VPT employees have experienced savings in recent staff meetings over the prospect that board intrigue could threaten the nonprofit's bottom line.

"If a major fine is instituted as a result of whatever the inspector general finds it doesn't impact the board. It impacts us," Neff says. "And it impacts potential cuts in service, cuts in programs, cuts in jobs at VPT."

Even though staff members were not aware of, nor involved with the alleged secret meetings, Bongiorno says, "Once an organization's reputation is damaged, it's very, very difficult to fix that in a quick time period. So we're mad."

Why board members would convene in secret remains unclear, though several people close to the situation say that the meetings had to do with the "toxic relationship" between current board leaders

WE FEEL BETRAYED  
BY THE BOARD.

CHUCK BONGIORNO

and King, who joined VPT in 1987 and became its president and CEO in 1995. In recent months, at least five senior managers have left the station.

On the same day VPT disclosed that it was under investigation, Macdonald announced it was being meeting that its former chairwoman, **AN WYATT**, had resigned from the board in November. Shortly after that meeting, board member **JOHN HALL** tendered his resignation.

Both men say their departures were not directly related to the CPB complaint, but they each listed it as a factor in their decision to leave the board's ranks.

"I know they've got a lot of work to do to get that scrubbed out," says Miller, who owns *Berry's Maine Travel*. "It is, in fact, in the complaint allegations, there were 22 meetings that were not properly open to the public. I think that's a problem. Whether it's a secret board, a volunteer fee department or anyone relying on public funds, a basic responsibility is transparency in operations."

Wyatt, a business consultant who continues to serve on the board of the affiliated Public Television Association of Quebec, says VPT's problems stem from a discernible change in board culture.

"Five years ago a new board leadership took over, and I think at that stage the whole concept of policy governance pretty much got thrown over the side, and the board began to take a more active role," he says.

Macdonald, a business consultant who also serves as chairwoman of the South Burlington City Council, became VPT's board chairwoman in July 2012. Hoffmann, the vice chairman, is a senior vice president of Morrisville's Union Bank. He served as commissioner of finance and corrections

and then secretary of human services under former governor **ANDREW DOUGLAS**. Both board members declined to comment, referring to Northfield Savings Bank president and CEO **BUD PELLITTERI**, who chairs the board's audit committee. He says the board is conducting its own inquiry into the matter apart from the CPB's.

"I can assure you that the board at VPT is committed to proper corporate governance, adherence to the rules and regulations that apply to Vermont Public Television," Pellitteri says. "At the event we had a meeting, we tried to correct it. Whether we're right or my message is still open to question."

Staff members, who express support for King, say they believe that if Macdonald, Hoffmann and others allegedly involved in the situation resign, the CPB may show some leniency.

"There will be fines levied unless there are negotiations," Bongiorno says. "To what level those fines are going to be, we don't know."

**Case Closed**  
A much-anticipated rematch at the 2012 Democratic primary for attorney general ended this week not with a bang, but a whimper.

Since he lost to Attorney General **BILL WORRELL** by a mere 704 votes, Chittenden County State's Attorney **JO JOONHAN** has publicly and privately complained a second run for the state's top job.

But on Monday, Worcester told Seven Days he's decided against it. Instead, he said, it "likely" he'll seek a third four-year term as state's attorney.

"In the final analysis, I come to the conclusion it's not the right time for me personally and professionally," the 48-year-old Burlingtonian said.

Obviously, the decision wasn't easy. "I've been struggling with it for quite some time," he said. "Literally my mind would change every morning when I woke up. I'd feel one way one day and the next day I'd feel another way. And, you know, I had to make a decision, so I did."

Doonan said that after several of his 2012 campaign proposals were signed into law, he had been unsure on whether to run. He said he also hopes to focus on helping Gov. **PETER SHAHOLIAN** spend Doonan's rapid-reconstruction community court to

other corners. And he said he warned that a month would devolve into a "personality contest."

Sorrell and Mondry are a "pitted" there's not going to be a rematch of 2012" he announced in October that he'd seek a ninth term.

Sorrell said he's already raised "over \$200,000" for his reelection campaign and plans to hold a fundraiser in Florida on Friday. No other candidates have yet emerged.

So what'll happen to Donovan? The scales of the politically connected, locally and Donovan claim has long been rumored to harbor gubernatorial or congressional ambitions. But with no clear path to the top at present, he appears to have chosen to play it safe, rather than forfeit his current position and risk a second statewide defeat.

"We know what the future holds. I really don't care, and that's okay. I go by what my uncle tells me," Donovan said, referring to Burlington attorney JOHN LADDY. "Fight the good fight, keep the faith and good things will happen. And just work hard."

## Way to Pay?

What on earth is Sen. PETER SALAMANDER (D-Windham) thinking?

That's a common question in the Statehouse, where the ex-diplomat has distinguished himself in the recent extent trouble.

And so it was that Gov. Leitch found himself left Thursday happily telling Senate Republicans — and a couple of TV news cameras attending the GOP's weekly caucus — that Gov. Stuenkel's signature priority, universal health insurance, is gonna be wicked expensive.

"In terms of revenue, it's not only the biggest tax increase in the history of Vermont, but it is, in fact, a tax that would exceed the current revenue of the income and the sales tax individually," Leitch said, referring to the payroll tax he says is "the only way" to finance Stuenkel's so-called single-payer plan.

Senate Minority Leader JOE BROWNE (R-Caledonia) could barely keep a straight face. Sitting in front of him was a Senate Democrat, reporting nervously verbatim, the very threat that conservative super PAC Vermonters First raised throughout the 2012 campaign season.

Recurring models, was imagining what Leitch's words would sound like when actually heard on a GOP TV show that fall.

Whether these words are accurate or not is a question of semantics, context or worldview.

"To some degree, it is the largest tax increase, but it's also a shifting," says Sen. BRYAN HARRIS (D-Rutland). That's because, in theory, even as individuals and businesses pay more in taxes to cover health care costs, they'll no longer pay premiums. At the caucus meeting, Leitch

proceeded to outline legislation he introduced earlier this month that would transfer the health care overhead mostly through payroll taxes. Experts say the new system would require between \$1.6 billion and \$2.2 billion in new revenue.

Leitch's proposal isn't exactly original. The architect of Stuenkel's plan, **WILLIAM WILSON**, suggested much the same, and the governor himself said, **James Montpelier Times Argus** editor **DAVID PAPER**, in October that the payroll tax would "play a major role" in financing the new system.

But Leitch is the first legislator to actually introduce legislation explicitly identifying a financing scheme, like says the time is now to write on a plan.

Stuenkel and legislative leaders, on the other hand, have third period to wait until 2015 to read on it. That has some legislators questioning whether their timeline is politically realistic.

"I really believe they do not want to have this discussion until after the next election," Mullin says.

Not yet, according to House Ways and Means Committee chairman **JAMES AMES** (D-Caledonia), who says, "I think everyone is working along the path that they think is going to get us to the end result."

Senate Finance Committee chairman **YIM KANG** (D-Fairfax) similarly says he "welcome[s] a discussion about financing options," but thinks it's "premature" to vote on one this year. Until he knows more about how the reform would impact individual Vermonters and businesses and how much money the bill will pay up, he argues, "putting an arbitrary date on when we should vote ... is to me irresponsible."

"If we're not able to design a system we want, approve a financing system we think is appropriate, while giving individuals and businesses time to implement these changes, I think the implementation date should be pushed back," Ames says, suggesting that Leitch's 2017 start date is not carried in votes.

As for whether the debate Leitch is provoking will hurt his fellow Democrats at the polls, the Windham County senator says that's beside the point.

"I don't think this is a partisan issue," he said after Thursday's caucus. "I think this is about getting Green Mountain Care done and that means facing up to the facts, presenting them and getting people to agree."

Besides, he said, "There's an election every two years in the state of Vermont, and, unlike apocalyptic fiction, there seems to be no prospect of a serious challenge to the governor or anybody else who's on the statewide ballot."

Not yet, anyway. ☺

**Deleanna** The Arts is the domestic partner of Seven Days publisher and editor Paula Roddy. Paul Roddy is on occasional piggyback on VPR's "Vermont This Week."

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# They Didn't Know His Name: New Details Emerge on Fatal Burlington Police Shooting

by MARK DAVIS

Last week, the Burlington City Council passed a resolution urging city police to improve their handling of mentally ill subjects, prompted by the killing of Wayne Bruneau, a 48-year-old who police say threatened officers with a shovel in November. "Policies have to be changed," his widow, Barbara Bruneau, told the council. "Training needs to be increased for police officers on how to handle mental-health issues."

Law-enforcement documents once obtained by *Seven Days* provide new details about the fatal encounter between Bruneau and officers Trevor Nason and Brian Thibault at his home in Burlington's New North Road—a shooting that, while not lethal, has led to a renewed focus on improving encounters between police and unstable citizens.

Among the insights:

- Two days before the November 6 shooting, Nason and Thibault participated in a Burlington Police Department-designed training course on proper police interaction with people who are mentally ill, like all *Quebec City* officers, they also have through the state's training program.

- A dispatcher alerted the officers that they would be dealing with a "mental health issue" before any inaccurate Bruneau. Despite that information, and the fact that the man had had previous run-ins with police, events unfolded so quickly that officers did not know Bruneau's name or law-enforcement history before Thibault opened fire.

- Bruneau was inside the house when officers arrived, and the officers spoke with his parents before they encountered him. It was Nason who announced Bruneau to come outside.

Did police set too aggressively? The same question came up in 2006, when Vermont police killed a schizophrenic man who had a gun, and again in June 2012, when they Tased an unarmed man who suffered from a seizure disorder—and he died as a result.

"We would like to see the response of police officers to be more discreet than it's sometimes," said Ed Fagan, the executive director of Disability Rights Vermont. "They're not social workers," he acknowledged, but nor have they "implemented... what people generally



agree is a logical response. You still have police reacting fast making snap judgments—not a whole lot different than a few years ago."

Burlington Police Chief Michael Schirring said his department is determined to improve its response to mental-health emergencies. Last week, it launched a pilot project that incorporates mental-health professionals into its first-response strategy. Provided there's no safety risk, a trained Howard Center worker will ride along with police on 911 calls. The mental-health workers might occasionally point out their own.

The chief and he was certain if the mental-health worker would have responded to the Bruneau call, Bruneau's family had indicated that he was "out of control," the chief noted, but there were no reports that anyone had been physically harmed.

Schirring defends Nason and Thibault, saying they acted aggressively. "It was the best available response. There's no way to know how something is going to unfold when you arrive, and they didn't do anything to exacerbate the situation," Schirring said. "They didn't even have a chance to talk to the person."

Bruneau's family members declined to comment for this article. But a public records request *Seven Days* filed with the

Vermont Attorney General's Office turned up a file of police reports, investigation findings and transcripts of interviews with Burlington Police officers Nason and Thibault that provides a more complete picture of what happened that day.

## The Blow-by-Blow

Around 4:15 p.m. on November 6, Nason and Thibault were patrolling in their cruisers near the Ellen Allen Homestead, talking, when they received a call from the dispatcher. Thibault had been on the force for 13 years, Nason for 10.

"Respond to 88 Randy Lane for a mental health issue," the dispatcher told the officers. "The caller lives downtown, owns property, advises [the] her son, who lives in the upstairs apartment, has been threatening, out of control, destroying property. He is now in the apartment upstairs. She's desperate, was advised to stay inside with the door locked."

Bruneau had begun chipping down a tree in the front yard of the home he shared with his parents and his wife, and had been yelling at his family. Burlington police dispatch records show the 911 call was entered as a "mental health issue."

The officers both arrived at the home about four minutes later.

Neither officer has any history with Wayne Bruneau or his family. They approached the front door of the home,

where Barbara and Lawrence Bruneau were waiting just outside the door. The couple and their son had "mental-health issues" and had spent time at the state hospital in Waterbury. Thibault later told Vermont State Police investigators.

Based on that investigation, Attorney General Bill Sorrell and Citicorps General State's Attorney T.J. Donovan eventually cleared the officers of criminal wrongdoing, and a parallel inquiry by the Burlington Police Department found that they had followed department policies. The state investigation provides this narrative:

Lawrence Bruneau told Thibault that his son was "crazy," refusing to take his prescribed medications or get other help. While Thibault talked to the parents, Nason stood to the left, in the driveway, and saw a barred metal through the open bay door standing in the nearby garage.

The man dropped something on the floor and disappeared from view, Nason told investigators. Moments later, Nason saw the man standing on a deck over the garage. The man was holding something, Nason said, and staring at him.

"He, can you come on down and talk to me?" Nason recalled asking the man, who they would later learn was Bruneau.

"No," Bruneau said. Suddenly, Bruneau emerged from the garage into the driveway, Nason recalled, holding a long-handled spade.

"Sir, see you do us a favor and put down the shovel so we can talk?" Nason asked.

According to Nason, Bruneau said, "You are going to have to shoot me."

Then he charged at Nason, who backpedaled toward the street.

"He never said anything else," Nason told investigators. "He ran stood up and I was flailing scared. He was starting through me... I honestly, I first time I've been this scared in my life."

Nason drew his Glock pistol when, suddenly, Bruneau's focus shifted to Thibault, who also drew his gun and began yelling, "Drop the shovel!"

Within a "few seconds," Thibault, who stood his ground as Bruneau approached, fired, never hitting Bruneau in the torso. But Bruneau kept advancing.

"Bruneau was still advancing towards me, was very close," Thibault later

told investigators "I'm contact. No real emotion except for the anger on his face. I shot at least one more time, I think two more times, before his momentum stopped and he went to the ground."

Thibault approached and saw that Brunette had dropped the shovel.

Since they didn't know if he had any other weapons, the officers and they did not administer first aid. Brunette, with five bullet holes in his body, tried to sit up. Thibault advised him to stay down, that help was on the way.

"Don't touch the shovel," he added. "It wasn't until then that Thibault asked Lawrence Brunette his son's name. The father had already witnessed the shooting.

"Thought his father said 'Wade' at first, so I asked him again," Thibault later recalled. "He said 'Wayne.' I said, 'OK, we have an ambulance coming. Is it all right?' And started speaking to Brunette by his first name, Wayne, telling him again to keep breathing, to relax."

A half hour later, Brunette was pronounced dead at Fletcher Allen Hospital. The dispatch log indicates the officers had been on the scene for two minutes before Brunette fell to the ground with his fatal wounds.

# **Does Training Work?**

Law enforcement officials and mental-health advocates say Brunette's shooting calls for enhanced training of police officers who may encounter unstable individuals. But Niosi and Thibault had from a force that may have received more instruction than any other in the state.

In 2004, lawmakers passed Act 90, which requires recruits at the Vermont Police Academy to undergo specialized training to deal with mentally ill subjects. Officers who had already graduated from the academy were not required to take the course. But the Burlington Police Department — which, because of the proximity to HowardCenter and other service providers, deals with a large number of mentally ill subjects — voluntarily sent all of its officers through the program.

By the end of 2003, 64 percent of all full-time officers in Vermont had gone through the training, according to reports filed with the legislature. Lila Burlington, other police departments sent some of its veterans voluntarily.

Additionally, the Burlington Police Department periodically hosts its own training sessions, to brush up on best practices. Niosi told investigators that such a session happened two days before Brunette's death. He said, "We did patrol procedures and training in regards to — in fact, it was still life going to a mental person, or a mental health situation, person with a gun, person with a hat, person with a knife."

In an interview, Schelling said the training session shortly before the shooting had focused on "integrated training on patrol tactics and how to interact with people with diminished mental capacity or a mental health issue." Part of the session, Schelling said, focused on how the mere presence of uniformed police officers can cause anxiety in mentally ill subjects.

**CERTAINLY THERE SHOULD NOT BE THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE WITHIN MINUTES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S ARRIVAL ON SCENE.**

ALLEN GILBERT

"The number one thing is, we know from experience that the mere presence of a police officer can exacerbate someone's underlying condition. It can be a trigger for people," Schelling said. "The idea is, you can prevent people from escalating to the point where you're now dealing with violent behavior, because once people get to a violent moment, your options are limited."

In this case, though, Schelling said there was little his officers could have done to generate a different outcome. Brunette gave them as little time to talk, he said, or employ other techniques to calm him down.

"Your question is emblematic of how fast things unfolded, that they never even got to the point where they had his name," Schelling said. "We don't have control over the speed in this particular instance." State Rep. Anne Donahue (R-Northfield), an expert on mental illness, said training only helps so much.

Ultimately, she said, the ability to de-escalate comes down to the personalities and skills of the responding officers. "We're still a long way in terms of improving, and a lot is always about the personality," Donahue said. "Some people are just better about that sort of thing. But training helps more people get skilled."

Niosi and Thibault have returned to active duty. But questions about the officers' handling of Brunette persist.

"By saying it was legally justified, I'm not saying it was a good outcome," Donahue said in an interview. "The outcome we're looking for is consistent and de-escalating when a mental health crisis has occurred. We want to make sure officers are comfortable calling police. There's got to be a better way, and I'm committed to finding it and I know Chief Schelling is, too."

Others were more critical. "Certainly there should not be the use of deadly force within minutes of law enforcement's arrival on scene," says Vermont ACLU Executive Director Allen Gilbert. "That's just a very sad commentary on an interaction gone terribly bad."

Donahue also questioned the officers' conduct, suggesting that, while it was ruled lawful, it was well short of ideal.

"I don't have some level of remorse where you can say, 'This is what should have happened but didn't, and you got a bad check mark, because you may not be guilty of the shooting in the direct sense, but you didn't handle it well, and there was a life lost that didn't have to be,'" Donahue said. "It seems like that's a big missing component. We're either going to prosecute you for homicide or we're going to say everything is fine. I don't think that builds confidence for people, and it doesn't improve police response."

The officers' attorney, Brooks McArthur, said that while his clients regretted the outcome, they handled the situation as they had been trained in.

"It was a situation that happened very quickly," McArthur said. "It's a tragedy, and no one wanted that to happen, and certainly the officers felt terribly for Mr. Brunette and his family. But when these kind of situations occur they have to fall back on their training, and that's what they did." ☐

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10 NEWS 11/27/03

# Into the Wilds: Backcountry Skiers Push for State Help in Carving New Glades

BY CHARLES SCHACKER

**R**ochester is surrounded on both sides by the sleeping Green Mountains, but the central Vermont town doesn't look much like a ski area. It lacks overhanging parking lots, overpriced cups of chili and a mountain range of condos. Another thing that's missing: chairlifts.

None of that has stopped a small group of outdoor enthusiasts from envisioning the town as a ski destination. "Most people interpret a 'ski area' as having lift access," says Angus McCauley, a representative for the Rochester Area Sports Trail Alliance, aka RASTA. "We're thinking more of glades and tree skiing."

Glades are sections of forest — both in and outside resorts — that have been thinned to improve access for backcountry skiers and snowboarders. By hiking to such spots, a growing number of skiers and snowboarders are avoiding lift lines. The number of resort skiers dropped 30 percent in the 2012-13 season in comparison to the year before, according to a report by the trade association *Snowsports Industries America*. Bad weather and economies may have had something to do with that, but during the same time period, participation in non-resort backcountry skiing jumped from 490,000 to 575,000 people.

There's no shortage of backcountry and in the Green Mountains. When RASTA and the Catamount Trail Association banded two separate panel discussions on backcountry skiing in November, almost 200 people attended each event.



Tourism and forest officials are willing to work with skiers and riders to explore the idea of creating backcountry areas on state and national forestland, as long as the group assemblies under one umbrella organization, according to Megan Smith, Vermont's tourism commissioner. Among the off-piste habitats popular in Vermont, backcountry skiing is unique in that it doesn't have such a body — while mountain bikers, equestrians, snowboarders and ATVerers all do.

"We're extremely interested in treating backcountry skiing the same as we do mountain biking," says Smith.

Encouraging glade services to set up in small towns would lead to low-impact economic development opportunities for enterprises such as inns and restaurants, Smith points out. Just as the popular Kingdom Trails mountain biking system has brought a jolt of tourism to the town of East Burke, the commissioner suggests that skiing could energize a town like Rochester, which was hit hard by Tropical Storm Irene.

The second advantage of responsibly expanding backcountry access is that it would lead to more sustainable glade cutting, state officials say. While doing so, public lands legal, cutting glades through that land without permission is not. In 2007, two skiers made headlines after illegally clearing 875 trees for a chute on Rag Jay mountain, which occupies state forest and borders Jay Peak resort.

"We see, as a skier in the back country, people doing some stuff they're not supposed to be doing, cutting trails without authority and not always with the best practices," says Michael Seidel, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation. "Could we open some state forests? Are there key places where we could develop backcountry skiing in a more organized fashion?"

The state already manages some glades through a public-private partnership. Two years ago, a private landowner made an offer to buy a 1,000-acre network

of glades and Nordic ski trails at Tolson Valley ski resort, closing the backcountry trails to public use. But after a \$1.85 million fundraiser, the Vermont Land Trust was able to purchase the land and donate it to the state. Seidel's department has now incorporated that land into Mt. Mansfield State Forest and is working to maintain its skiable terrain with a group called the Friends of Madon Valley Nordic and Backcountry.

Still, glade creation remains controversial territory. "We don't know all of the ins and outs of... what people are looking for, what exactly is needed. We don't have experience with that," says Bruce Frederick, a state stewardship forester in Washington and Lamoille counties.

But having worked with groups like the Catamount Trail Association, the Green Mountain Club and the Vermont Mountain Bike Association, Frederick cautions that the approval process can be long and dizzying, as it involves a litany of environmental factors: erosion prevention, timber conservation and preservation of threatened species like the Bald Eagle's nest.

The CTA has some experience in the bureaucratic — and literal — weeds of trail management, having maintained the 300-mile condition Catamount Trail for 30 years. Since hosting one of those ski fests in November, its representatives have been discussing land-use strategies with members of the state and national forest services, reports Amy Kirby, the group's executive director. But there

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## I'VE SEEN ... PEOPLE DOING SOME STUFF THEY'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE DOING, CUTTING TRAILS WITHOUT AUTHORITY AND NOT ALWAYS WITH THE BEST PRACTICES.

MICHAEL SMYDER

may soon be another organization that could play an umbrella role for the state's backcountry skiers. Next month, a group called the Vermont Backcountry Skiers' Alliance plans to launch. Its role, says photographer Brian Mohr, will not just be to better facilitate backcountry access, but also to work with officials, conservationists and search-and-rescue groups to educate the public about safely and sustainably enjoying the woods.

"I like to keep using the word 'facilitating,' but that's a lot of what we're going to be doing," Mohr says. That means, "If you're been looking up that hill behind the post office and wanting to do it, we could convene with the town selectboard to make a parking lot, get some kids together to do some volunteer shoveling and you can hike up there, spring yourself a 30 minute drive to the resort and \$70 lift ticket!"

Members of RASTA are already taking steps to legitimize access to their own favorite ski spots in the Green Mountain National Forest near Rochester. For the last couple of months, the group has been working with members of the U.S. Forest Service to draft a proposal for a pilot guide to the Chittenden Brook-Brandon Gap area. Under the proposed arrangement, members of RASTA would voluntarily ensure no unapproved cutting-trails take place.

To find precedent for the partnership, Rochester district forest ranger Chris Mattioli has contacted several other U.S. Forest Service ranger units around the country. Times out it's unprecedented, "which is somewhat of a challenge," Mattioli says. "We're guided by policy, law, regulation, standards set forth in our forest plan that guides our

land management. But at this point it's all mine as the subject."

Beyond the environmental considerations, Mattioli explains that creating signs should also be done carefully, since marking an area as skiable could create liability. But Neil Van Dyke, team leader of the nonprofit Stowe Mountain Rescue service and the state's new search-and-rescue coordinator, isn't worried. He says the vast majority of rescue missions aren't in response to those who strap climbing shoes on their skis and "earn their turns."

"Historically, the skiing population that has generated the most search-and-rescue missions, by far, is lift-served," Van Dyke says.

A spike in the number of lost or injured skiers at Killington Ski Resort over the holiday season prompted state Sen. Kevin Mullen (R-Rutland) to propose a bill last year that would have stopped a \$500 fine on skiers who went off trail and needed to be rescued. But the Vermont Senate shot it down after hearing testimony from law-enforcement officials and backcountry advocates, including David Goodstein, the Vermont-based author of several backcountry ski guides, that fines might make people wait too long before seeking help.

For organizations like the Vermont Backcountry Skiers' Alliance, would help, Goodstein says, because "We need to be able to speak with one voice and be at the table when decisions are being made that affect us. These decisions have to do with issues around rescue, around trail cutting, but I think the biggest thing is access."

Adam Howard, editor-in-chief of Jeffersonville-based Backcountry magazine and a former state legislator, has been advocating for several years that Vermont's backcountry skiers organize. He also testified against Mullen's bill. And he has another recommendation: that local ski groups take a cue from RASTA and reveal a few of their secret "trails."

"This whole 'Powder is a finite resource, we want to get there first thing' Howard says. "To me, the solution is the more terrain that's legitimate and that's available, the more the problem is mitigated." ☐

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# Health Experts Laud New Woodstove Rules; Stove Makers Doubt They'll Clear the Air

by Ken P. Enrle

**S**ink, Congress works at ground zero for Vermont residents. The 35-year-old respiratory therapist serves as an asthma educator and tobacco cessation specialist for Rutland Regional Medical Center. In 2010, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified Vermont as having the highest rate of adult asthma in the country — 11.1 percent of the population suffers from it — Rutland had Vermont's highest incidence of the chronic respiratory disease. So when Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources issues an air quality alert for Rutland, so it did on January 9 due to high wood smoke levels forecast for the following day. Congress and her clients take heed.

"On these cold, cold days, I often hear people complain, 'I take that first breath and my lungs tighten up all day long,'" Congress said.

Each day, she visits the homes of Rutland-area infants and suffers of COPD, a degenerative pulmonary disease associated with cigarette use. Her job is to encourage ways for her clients to breathe easier, such as cleaning up their wood and pellet stoves, using metal — not properly and shutting one long.

Because Rutland also has some of the state's oldest heating stoves, Congress sees a lot of outdated and inefficient wood stoves, the smoke and soot of which can trigger asthma attacks and other acute respiratory problems. She often warns clients, "If you can smell the smoke in your house, it's not how close to properly."

Like many Vermont public health experts, Congress was glad to see the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency propose stricter emission standards on all new woodstoves, pellet stoves and other residential wood heaters. The EPA predicts that the new rules, due to be finalized in 2015 and phased in over five years, would make residential wood-fired heaters burn as much as 80 percent cleaner than those made today.

But will the new rules actually make Vermont's air significantly cleaner? Two local woodstove manufacturers — Vermont Castings, in Randolph, and Heartstone Stoves of Morrisville — say not. They contend that the real threats to Vermont's air are new woodstoves and pellet stoves that the thousands of older models that should not be affected by the new guidelines.

Those arguments also contend that the cost of compliance could raise the price of new stoves out of reach for most consumers, while ignoring a greater threat to Vermont's air quality and third-governing pollution in the Midwest.

According to U.S. census figures, Vermont ranks first in the nation for its per-capita use of wood for heat, with at least one in six Vermont households now using wood products as their primary heating source. ANR estimates that the number is even higher, saying between one-third and one-half of all Vermont homes use wood as a heat source.

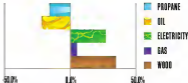
Housewives are not the only ones heating with wood. Nearly one-third of all Vermont schoolchildren attend a school heated by wood or biomass. Burlington Electric's 60 megawatt McNeil Generating Station burns about 76 tons of locally harvested wood per hour to feed electricity to the grid.

But all that combustion comes at a price. Each year, the Vermont ANR issues an average of three to five air quality alerts. In 2010, there have already been two. Rick Foster, ANR's air quality planning chief, says that most of those alerts occur in winter when the forecast for clear, cold and calm days in mountain valley regions, such as Rutland, where temperatures frequently may plummet.

Since 2009, Rutland has experienced 20 "black advisory days" for smoky air pollution. Over that same period, Burlington experienced just three, and Burlington is on the main culprit, Foster says, wood-burning wood smoke. Unlike auto smokes and oil furnace soot, which face strict emission standards, many sources of wood smoke, such as outdoor wood boilers, have not been regulated.

Of major concern to environmental health experts are the big portables, or PMS, which are big portables less than 2.5 meters in diameter. (For comparison, a human hair is about 20 microns across.) These portables can get trapped deep inside the chest, causing lung, blood vessel and heart. They can also be deadly, triggering heart attacks, strokes and other ailments.

Jane Wolkstein, asthma program manager at the Vermont Department of Health, says the new EPA rules will make a difference in cleaning the air. But change will take time, she cautions,



2000-2010 residential heat change. From 2000-2010, oil and propane continued as residential heat sources while electricity and wood slipped. Source: U.S. Census.

in part because wood stoves don't get replaced very often, and burning boilers are engrained.

"We do struggle with these cultural, Vermont-specific aspects that wood is a 'green' source of energy," she says.

Indeed, despite strong air quality concerns, ANR doesn't try to get people to burn less wood, just to burn smarter.

"The agency actually supports burn-savvy wood," says Elaine O'Grady, director of the air quality and climate divisions. "There's no expectation on our part that wood burning will go away, but we do support proposals to make wood burning cleaner and more efficient."

But will the pellet and woodstove industry be able to comply? Dave Kishfield is president of Heartstone Stoves, which employs 50 to 60 people, depending upon the season, at its Morrisville factory. According to Kishfield, Heartstone currently manufactures 18 EPA-certified wood and pellet stoves. He contends that if the EPA's "discretion" regulations take effect as written, every one those products would be obsolete within five years.

Kishfield contends that the cost of re-engineering and recertifying all 36 stoves to the new guidelines, using a new testing procedure, would cost his company about \$150,000 to \$200,000 per model. That expense would have to be passed on to consumers, he notes, adding another \$1,000 to \$1,500 to the stoves' price tag.

"At this point, we cannot let down and scrap this fit," Kishfield adds. "We are not such a small company that we can't cover the safety of our fellow Vermonters. Heating with wood is a very noble option because it's the most local renewable energy we have here. When you cut your wood and heat with it, you get it right."

Heartstone's local competitor, Vermont Castings, voices similar concerns. Jess Kishfield, VC's senior vice president for sales and customer service joined Kishfield in proposing another solution: that rid of the estimated 6 million old stoves built before the EPA standards were set. Since 2008, Vermont has run a program that provided the public with financial incentives to swap old and polluting outdoor wood boilers for newer, more efficient ones. In all, 65 units were replaced, at a cost of about \$100,000 to the state.

Kishfield and others suggest that Vermont, or the EPA could adopt a similar program for pellet and woodstoves, in which a Lobb, Moctima. Ten years ago, the small raising town near the Canadian border had no air pollution control program by old and inefficient woodstoves. This was a serious health concern, as hundreds of Lobb residents suffer from asthma, sinusitis and other lung diseases due to decades of woodsmoke smog.

Between 2008 and 2008, the EPA, the Moctima Department of Environmental Quality, and the Health, Food and Fisheries Association implemented a woodstove change-out program for Lobb. According to a University of Montana report, they swapped out or rebuilt nearly 1,200 stoves and by 2010 had reduced outdoor fine particle levels by nearly one-third, and outdoor levels by 71 percent. Vermont's stove makers say a similar program in Vermont could be just as effective. Currently, however, state officials say they have no plans, nor funding, to implement one. □

Contact: Joe@vermontcastings.com

FROM THE BLOG

# off message

POLITICS  
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## Vermont Judge Rejects Prison Company's Bid to Keep Records Secret

The prison prison company reopen while for add Vermont inmates may be subjected to public scrutiny, a Montpelier judge decided last week.

Judge Robert East rejected a request by Corrections Corporation of America to dismiss a lawsuit seeking records on conditions inside the prisons that house Vermonters in New York, Kentucky and Arizona.

The plaintiff is the monthly Prison Legal News.

CCA had argued that since it's a private company, it should not be subject to Vermont's public records law. The judge disagreed, saying the company was subject to the open records law.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which represents Prison Legal News, said it was encouraged by the judge's decision.

"For the Vermonters who are stuck and key in Tennessee and Kentucky, CCA is interchangeable with the Department of Corrections," said Vermont ACLU staff attorney Dan Barrett. "We, the public, should know how our state's prisoners are being treated on our behalf in privately run facilities."

Since 2002, the state of Vermont has paid CCA \$70 million to accommodate its overflow prison population in out-of-state correctional facilities.

Records still have not been turned over, and the judge has ordered further hearings on other issues in the case.

— MARK DAVIS

## A Crowded Field Vies to Replace Fox in the Senate

Less than two weeks after the death of Sen. Kelly Fox, a slew of high-profile Chittenden County Democrats is



porting to replace her in the Senate.

Among the contenders are two House members, a former party chairman and the runner-up in the 2002 senate race.

An Seven Days went to press, an 80-member committee of Chittenden County Democrats was set to meet Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Burlington's Fletcher Free Library in order to narrow the field. Each committee member will have three votes, and the names of the top three vote getters will be forwarded to Gov. Peter Shumlin.

But the governor, who has not tipped his hand, is free to appoint whomever he wants to fill the seat — whether or not he picks makes the county committee's list. And a low-name, high-profile candidate could yet emerge and shake up the race.

On Monday, former Democratic National Convention delegate Diane Ellis threw her hat in the ring. And on Tuesday night, philanthropist and major Democratic donor Cara Lumibac took hers out.

Still in the race: William school-board member Debbie Ingram who came in seventh in the race for 6th Chittenden County senate seats in 2012, Rep. Tim Jermon (D-Black

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## Off Message

Janetm), a 10-year veteran of the House, attorney and former Vermont Democratic Party chairman Jake Perlman, and Rep. Keith Ruse (D-Barre), who also serves as a public engagement specialist for the City of Burlington.

So what Shumlin going to choose? The governor has not held like to see more women in elective office, and with Perl's death, only eight of the Senate's 29 members are female. But Perlman's voting record and his roots in Perl's former town of Keese might make him a compelling replacement. And of all the candidates, Perlman has the political savvy — and the ear of Shumlin — to make his case.

Believe it or not, this very special election could yet surprise.

— PAUL HEINTZ

## Lawmakers Advance 'Solar Standoff' Solution

Last year, it looked like the plan to increase solar production in Vermont had become too successful.

Critics found themselves up against a cap on buying power from homegrown solar installations long before the lawmakers had designed the rules ever anticipated. Vermont had encouraged solar production by requiring utilities to credit customers for so-called "net-metered" energy at 20 cents per kilowatt hour — enough for some banks to cancel out the rest of their power bill.

Utilities said it was time to put on the brakes, solar energy advocates argued that doing so would cripple solar development just as the industry was hitting its stride in Vermont.

Now again because the solar standoff is gaining support in Montpelier. On Thursday the House is scheduled to consider legislation that would reduce the cap on so-called "net metering" to better match the demand for residential solar generation.

The bill, championed by House Natural Resources and Energy Committee chair Tony Klein (D-East Montpelier), prescribes the current program for the next two and a half years, while applying the current cap on net metering from 4 to 15 percent of a utility's peak energy generating

capacity. Then the bill paves the way for suspending the program in 2017, when federal solar tax credits are set to expire.

The two-and-a-half-year reprieve, says Klein, "gives the solar industry enough time to plan for their future and adjust for any possible changes, without hopelessly any overreliance on growth."

— KATHERYN FLAEG

## In Budget Address, Shumlin Seeks to Avoid Offense

What a difference a year makes.

When liberal lawmakers and low income advocates exited the House chamber last January after Gov. Peter Shumlin's budget address, they were apologetic. Shumlin had vowed to take on the so-called welfare state, proposing to cap Reach Up benefits for needy families and divert a portion of the Earned Income Tax Credit. Democratic lawmakers rebelled, and many of Shumlin's proposals died a slow death.



This year, the Democratic governor using a different tone, telling on legislators to spend 24.3 million more to "move Vermonters out of poverty." To that end, Shumlin proposed doubling the state's investment in mental and increasing funding for homeless children and childcare centers. Notably, he pitched spending \$680,000 more on substance abuse and mental health treatment for Reach Up recipients.

Coming on the heels of Shumlin's headline-grabbing State of the State address on social addiction, Wednesday's speech appeared designed to avoid giving offense. In presenting his 2014 billion budget, Shumlin, for the thirteenth time, said he would reject "broad-based tax increases on hard-working Vermonters."

— PAUL HEINTZ

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# The New Yorker's Calvin Trillin Talks About Elvis, What Makes a Person Funny, and His Upcoming Vermont Visit

By PAUL A. POGGIO

"I call him I used to call him Dad," advised an *Arts & Letters* Breakfield band New Yorker cartoonist who was facing to writer Calvin Trillin, his long-time friend. In advance of Trillin's talk at the Vermont Statehouse for *Parents Night* next Wednesday, January 29, and my phone interview with him, I had called Karen looking for any inside info he could give me. After all, when you can find every detail of a man's accomplished merits on the internet, what's left to ask?

But Paul? I know that Trillin's parents had called him Buddy, and the nickname apparently stuck. But I'd been thinking "Mr. Trillin." There's been, over a 50-plus year career, he has written loads of feature journalism, close to 90 books, hundreds of essays and magazine articles, mostly for the *New Yorker*.



CLAVIN TRILLIN

short stories, columns, memoirs and humorous verses in the "deadline post" at the *Kurios*. It's also had a couple of well-out one-man stage shows. Trillin has more than earned my respect and admiration, and he's hilarious, to boot. He's an American treasure, like Mark Twain. I couldn't decide whether I was intimidated or in love.

So I told to Calvin respectfully, "He must be nice because he's from the

Midwest." Karen said, "No, he isn't. Never mind that he's lived in New York City for long."

"He is nice," agreed Karen. "And he is very funny."

In fact, Trillin was awarded the Thurston Prize for American Humor for his book *Quite Enough* of Calvin Trillin: Forty Years of Funny Stuff in 2010. He has written about presidents — well, one in particular — in comic verse (my

favorite: *Obama's On His Side: The Bush Administration in Rhyme*). His columns are so enjoyable, they've been collected into books so we can read them again and again. And the witty commentary in his "deadline" pieces is a marvel of economy. Take this one about the police opposite Chantry station.

*Yes, I see and many more are fighting  
Thanking you, there should be nothing.  
On Tuesday Day, we may get word  
On who was first to flip the bird*

Trillin was an inspired choice for the *For the Record* series. William S. Burroughs. And the museum's leadership made an even better one to team up with *Parents Night* and bring "Calvin Trillin's America" to the Statehouse. Karen had told me, "He's very funny when he talks."

So how did it go on the phone? Well, I started with, "Did he tell me to call you Dad, but I wasn't so sure."

"Dear Grace" would be good," he replied without hesitation.

I told Trillin I'd learned that he and Karen met not at the *New Yorker* but

I THINK some people  
just have their heads  
wired differently.

Calvin Trillin

## RoAd Riot

Based in Hardwick, *RoAd Riot* makes the most of its rural residence. On its website, a stylized logo is adorned with a cow. A classic couple of town hall an mX sign says while a thermometer indicating a very low temp, and a jagged mountain skyline. But the troupe's devotion to place doesn't end with art. *Jerome*, *Jerome*, and *Jerome* — performers in life as well as onstage, and alumni of the *RoAd Riot* and *Put the Hammer* — act on the board of the Hardwick Town House, where they have performed for the past two years and have contributed to venue upgrades. We now have lights and a soundboard. I under notes with costumes.

This year with the help of a grant from the Vermont Arts Council, *RoAd Riot* is looking for new members — whose other careers members are *Chloe*, *Chloe*, *Chloe*.

*West*, and *stage* — will conduct its funny business on nine stages around the state, beginning this Saturday at Goodland College and winding up at Burlington's FlynnSpace on March 11. Under the banner "The show is a modern update of vaudeville humor: music, slapstick comedy, circus, stunts and juggling." And he says, "We're always trying to get outside the box."

Along the way, Vermont Vaudeville will feature some guest performers. One of them is *Shady Koppel*, a vaudeville veteran who performs in *Hardwick* and *Hardwick*. The *RoAd Riot* is *Hardwick* and *Hardwick*. The *RoAd Riot* is *Hardwick* and *Hardwick*.

It's a cool idea," he says of *RoAd Riot*. "I've been in the 30s and 50s, we

used to tour vintage shows in the same way." Koppel is happy to see the tradition continue. It was surprising, he says. The popularity of vaudeville, which began in the 1930s, has scarcely abated, particularly in Europe. If anything, it's resurged in the U.S. in recent years.

Why does this exactly whole some entertainment have such staying power? Koppel suggests it's because the demographic is so large. Parents and kids can do it together, laugh together. "He recalls a friend telling him that even his own adult teenagers enjoyed the show. "Parents' greatest joy is to see their kids happy," Koppel says.

Seeking of parents and kids. Koppel notes that I and *Jerome* — not only comic performers but wonderful musicians — have an adorable 3-year-old who



From left: Brent Polley, Matt Polley, and Michael Polley. Photo by David Lander.

crawls with them to shows. "She's a little Shirley Temple waiting to happen," Koppel says. Regardless of age or other

earlier, in 1959, when both were in the army. And both happened to be present "on the occasion of the mourning out of Elton Presley," Keres had said, describing the mob of screaming teenage girls welcoming their idol home from a star in Germany. Triffin said he didn't really remember Elton. However, both he and Keres very much remembered Nancy Sinatra, who was mercifully part of the scene.

I didn't ask Triffin about the still he'd early reporting on racial integration that got his writing career off the ground, or about joining the *New Yorker* staff in 1960, or about the remarkable "U.S. Journal" series he wrote for the magazine for 15 years. I didn't ask how about his food writing, or his memoirs, or about his beloved late wife, Alice. Because if that has been done.

Instead, I asked Triffin what he was going to talk about for Farmers Night in Vermont. That didn't go anywhere, as he seemed to have no idea. "I think I was raised in speech in 12 days," he mused.

We did so we embraced to figure out how many deadline poems Triffin had written since he began them in 1990 — more than a thousand! "Although they're not very long," he said modestly.

"But it's a lot of words," I countered. "At a hundred dollars a poem — I should have a lot of money around here somewhere," he said.

"I hope it's well needed," I said. Our conversation took a few tangents in this manner, which I did not write down and which generally ended in giggles — mine. Finally, I asked "dad" where his fancy comes from.

Instead of a grip, his answer was thoughtful. "I think some people just have their heads wired differently," Triffin said. "But it depends on the household you grew up in. My father was funny, in a low-key Midwestern way." He paused for a beat before adding "It's also whether or not you are appreciated."

In a burst of Midwestern solidarity, I shared that I was from Omaha.

"People from Omaha," Triffin said, "tend to be like people from Kansas City." ☺

## INFO

Takes Triffin America: William Edly Lee, Tues. at Farmers Night, Wednesday January 26, 7:30 p.m. at the Vermont Statehouse in Hendrick. Free and open to the public. [vtraveltourism.org](http://vtraveltourism.org)

first show attracted 120 people. "Last year," Lander says, "it was 800."

Time to spread the fun around.

PAMELA POLSTON

## INFO

Vermont Vautsville: Saturday January 25, Haystack Theatre at Goddard College. Friday January 26, Big Picture Theatre in Wardsboro. Saturday February 1, Barton Memorial Building. Friday February 2, 7:30 p.m. Town Hall Theatre in Middlebury. Saturday February 3, Glenbrook Theatre in Montpelier. Saturday February 10, Sports Mode Hall in White River Junction. Friday February 21, Bellows Falls Middle School Auditorium. Saturday, February 22, New England House Theatre in Greenfield. Saturday March 1, Plymouth in Burlington. All shows 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Prices vary. Tickets at [vermontvautsville.org](http://vermontvautsville.org)

variables the odds. "Vermont audiences are really appreciative." That's not news in Vermont. Vautsville. In Hendrick, the groups

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(left to right) Neel Ferrero-Balanchet, performance  
piece, 2013 / Silvia Federici / Jolene Rickard

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## The Hopkins Center Links Campus and Community in a 'Radical' Arts Initiative

By Ryan Chiding WARREN

**N**othing, songs attention quite like being "flashed, bristled and in your face, it can't help but catch eyes and turn heads."

That's what the *layed the Center* for the arts at Dartmouth College is banking on with Radical Jewelry Makerover, a showy pilot project that bears the tagline "Creativity Sustainability Being." The Hop is rolling it out to herald the launch of its new Community Ventures Initiative (CVI), which will boost community arts programming throughout the Upper Valley in coming years.

"We are outward facing, and we do want people to come through our doors, but it's not always about getting people to come to the Hop," says *the Center* for the arts, manager of outreach at the arts center and coordinator of the new CVI. "We want to be an active member of this community, too."

Radical Jewelry Makerover is a multi-faceted project with a sustainability theme, implemented in partnership with Ethical Materials, a national, like-based nonprofit that promotes ethical mining practices. A second pilot program with a recycling and sustainability theme called *the Trash* — which will invite the public to create musical instruments out of trash and hold live concerts — is also scheduled for this spring.

The Hop's leadership in programming will involve a series of public art projects, workshops, exhibits and lectures. The two plans have educational, economic building focus, but they were also selected to make a splash. CVI wants Upper Valley residents to know that more, debatable and long-term programming from the college is in the works, says Hop programming director *the Center* for the arts, and that community is being sought to dictate what these programs will be.

Radical Jewelry Makerover opens with a month-long "community



Jeff Georgatos and Stephanie Pacheco

mining" jewelry donation period. Through February 28, residents of the Upper Valley and surrounding communities can contribute to unwanted jewelry — broken pieces, single earrings or anything, cluttering up vanity drawers. Donations may be mailed in or dropped off at several locations around the Upper Valley, including the Hop's last office, Riverfront, located in White River Junction, and several branches of the Mountain Savings Bank.

On April 12 and 13, jewelry making workshops with a capacity for more than 300 participants will be held at the Hop's jewelry studio. On May 16, the arts center will host a glass exhibition of the jewelry made in the workshops, along with panel discussions, artist talks and lectures from Ethical Materials staffers and others. The exhibit runs through June 15, and all the final new pieces of jewelry will be for sale. Jewelry donors get a coupon toward purchases, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Ethical Materials.

Using Radical Jewelry Makerover as CVI's debut was the brainchild of Jeff Georgatos, director of the jewelry studio at Dartmouth, who says he's been trying to get Radical Materials to come to the Upper Valley for years.

"One of the things that is really pretty amazing is how destructive the process of mining precious metals actually is," Georgatos says in a recent interview, perched atop an awl in his studio. "It can easily take a couple of tons of earth to get a little more of gold the size of a 50-cent piece. And that's if things are going well. It can go up to a hundred tons per ounce."

Ethical mining practices might seem a distant reality in the Upper Valley, but the intentions behind Radical Jewelry Makerover are candid. Aside from promoting CVI and using the arts to educate the public about ethical ethical issues, the big goal, Pacheco says, is to build a brand around events that lets community members get hands-on experience making art — and allows them to choose their level of participation.

"It's something that anyone — from a professional jeweler to a stop at home sewer, to an 8-year-old, or even a Dartmouth student — can all work on together," Pacheco says.

*the Center* for the arts, owner of Revolution, with its upcycled clothing, says that Radical Jewelry Makerover's concept is meant to recycle, reusable art makes it a "total slam dunk for a local business community culture."

"Typically, I think that most Hopkins Center programs have open to the greater UV community in an uncomplicated way to that," Susan Ventresca on email. "When there is a reciprocal venture, such as the Radical Jewelry project, it allows the general community to engage more fully in an institution that is very



Community donated items to the Dartmouth campus.

Though the Hop has a long history of educational programming and community outreach, CVI builds on themes explored during a campus-wide Class Divide project, a three-year series of discussions, artist residencies and performances that wrapped up in 2008. The Hop's website describes it as "the country's first initiative to explore socio-economic class through the eyes of artists."

The artists in residence for Class Divide developed relationships and ongoing dialogues with community members and created art installations and performances that addressed themes relevant to Upper Valley communities.

"Class Divide changed us," says Lawrence. "As we learned more and more about what the barriers around participating with the Hopkins Center are for our communities, we learned a [new] style of working and planning."

The chances that developing that "style" will take time. Radical CVI program will largely rely on freelance artists currently underrepresented communities. The first focus group, composed of teachers and community leaders who work with them, will convene later this month.

"This is one of the bigger priorities of the staff group," Pacheco says of CVI's long-term commitments. "To make something sustainable."

### INFO

Learn more about the Hopkins Center's Community Ventures Initiative and Radical Jewelry Makerover including how to donate through February 28 and participate in workshops at hop.dartmouth.edu/communityventures

**It's someth' big that anyone — FROM A PROFESSIONAL JEWELER TO A STAY-AT-HOME MOM TO AN 8-YEAR-OLD, OR A TEEN, OR A DARTMOUTH STUDENT — can all work on together.**

STEPHANIE PACHICO

## A NEW SMAIL YEAR



Rachel Polston

This Friday the **SEA CENTER** will open three exhibits on three floors of the downtown gallery. And an announcement that has nothing to do with any of them will be made during the reception: **Candace HELLMAN** will receive the most recent of the Barbara Small Award if you're reading this, you'll be in the know. Its Charlotte artist, **BARBARA SMALL**.

"I was surprised and really really honored [to find out]," Helen says in a phone interview. "I think it's great that Barbara Small and her friends are the role models for this prize — they were fiercely devoted to both art and their families."

The annual award intended for mid-career artists is named for a late local painter who created dazzling, brightly colored canvases. Set up posthumously by her family, the award comes with \$10,000 and free access to SEA print shop and photography studios for a

year. A residency on SEA's fourth floor was formerly part of the prize, but that space was converted to the **VERMONT METRO GALLERY** last fall.

"There's talk of different spaces to utilize around town," Helen says. "Since she has a project in mind? For the year I've been thinking about a multimedia project, without Super 8 film that we do fixed and fixed and new photographs, and ephemera," she says. "I'm thinking about a self portrait, as an aggregate."

As it happens, Helen also won a MacDowell fellowship this year and will spend a month-long residency at the New Hampshire artists colony in the spring. In this respect the honors previous Small recipient, **KATE BOWEN**, who in the past year also received an artist development grant from the **FLEMING MUSEUM**.

**FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** Recently recently showed a video that resulted from her time "in prison" at both SEA and the Flynn. Her culminating exhibit is one of the shows opening this Friday.

About Donnelly's more by of explanation: Helen observes, "Kate really highlighted what the art process is, very subtly. She showed us the moments of quiet."

Helen embraces the opportunity to let her own process unfold. "Time is one of the greatest gifts, and the wisdom [of the Small award] is very powerful," she concludes. "I'm really impressed that they're keeping it going."

RAHEL POLSTON

## INFO

Barbara Small Award Presentation: Friday, January 24, during artist receptions at 6 p.m. at SEA Center in Burlington (tel. 865-7166, [burlingtonarts.org](http://burlingtonarts.org)).

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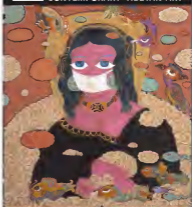
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## LABOR RELATIONS



Office Space



The Office



First Chair: Out of Labor

Do you know the last line of Martin Scorsese's 1976 comedy drama *The French Connection*? According to **DAVID JENSEN**, director of film and television studies at the University of Vermont, it's one of the greatest closing lines in film (though he wouldn't reveal it: look it up on IMDb). Jensen says, "It's what everyone wishes they could say in a similarly stressful situation, and in an ideal world it's what everyone should have said to HUAC [the House Un-American Activities Committee]."

If you haven't heard the line before or if you want to hear it again with an audience of community members and UVM students, April 11 is an opportunity to see *The French Connection* and *The Office* screened in this spring's UVM Film Series, organized in partnership with UVM's Lane Library.

The series kicks off this Tuesday, January 23, with Mike Judge's 1993 comedy *Office Space*, starring Jennifer Aniston and Ron Livingston. Based on Judge's animated shorts, the series of white-collar work-participants "The Office" and became a cult classic. A pre-film lecture by Jensen and a post-film discussion could give it a new spin.

Jensen's last two local faculty lectures for the series will introduce each film with a different take inspired by this year's chosen theme: "Working for a Living." Later on, he'll

"be better or worse, work defines who we are," Jensen explains "and

these films ask us to think about these definitions and their effect on us as individuals. [They] ask us whether we really are defined by our work, whether work enables us, or if work, especially work we do for the profit of others diminishes us as human beings."

Jensen chose both the theme and the movies in consultation with staff at the **VERMONT MUSEUM OF ART**. "It was great fun brainstorming with the whole group," he says. "The biggest challenge is that we had enough films for 10 series."

Do you live to work, or work to live? Working for a living could make audiences think about questions that don't often get time in the spotlight during their busy lives—questions that, says Jensen, "are as pertinent for today's Silicon Valley employee as they were for a Ford factory worker at the turn of the last century."

JENNIFER ROMBERG

### INFO

Working for a Living: Later in front-of-house, Tuesday, January 23, 8 p.m. at the UVM Theater, February 20, 7 p.m. at the UVM Theater, Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m. at the UVM Theater. Tickets for the series are \$10. For more information, visit [www.uvm.edu/workingforaliving](http://www.uvm.edu/workingforaliving).

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## Dear Cecil,

What's with all the celebrity charities? A quick search on the web found a list as long as your arm, everyone from Michael Bloomberg, Tom Brokaw, Sharon Stone and Andre Agassi to Elton John. It's certainly nice for those with enough dough to give some to a worthy cause, but, being skeptical by nature, I wonder if something else is going on besides pure philanthropy.

Keith Runfola



Listen, Keith, if you can personally slip a twenty into the Salvation Army kettle, that's pure philanthropy. If you get a tax break for doing it — and I fill out the charitable donations worksheet for my Schedule A as diligently as I can — it's not so let's have no illusions about the general level of virtue in our society.

The allegedly charitable series of celebrities occasionally provides outrage, but that's partly because they start on a larger stage. That's not meant as an excuse for dubious behavior, on the contrary, take it as a caution. The stark difference between donating to a celebrity's charity and the one founded by the kid in your door cloning his nursing points for college is that you're dealing with a better paid class of scum.

As illustration, consider the following tales gleaned from the net.

One Jan. 1 in 2013 on ESPN "Inside the Game"

investigation examined 115 charities founded by high profile athletes and found 74 percent didn't meet acceptable operating standards for non-profit organizations. On inquiry more closely, we find the problem often isn't evil intent so much as paying no attention.

Take the charities set up by Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez. What seems to have happened is this: 1. A Red gets flak for participating in illegal poker games and decides it's time for PR. 2. ex-cubers 2. A Red gets flak for participating in illegal poker games and decides it's time for PR. 2. ex-cubers 2. A Red gets flak for participating in illegal poker games and decides it's time for PR.

Everybody forgets about the chairman. Neither filed a tax return from 2007 to 2010, leading the IRS to revoke their tax exempt status. Today all we know is that, in 2006, \$368,500 in contributions went in and a mere \$5,000 worth of good works came out, along with \$600,000 spent on expenses, presumably luxury. Who's not? Rodriguez has other things on

his mind at the moment, and \$60 grand is pocket change for him anyway. All you can hope is that the people he got it from feel the same way.

Case 2. NBA forward and (for now) Kardashian spouse Lamar Odom set up his charity Cedric's Kids to help underprivileged children and fight cancer. A \$150 per-ticket Hollywood gala in 2009 emphasized the latter aim, but eight years of fact sheets showed nothing was ever spent on cancer research. Instead, of \$2.2 million raised, \$1.5 million went to two elite youth basketball teams. Asked for an explanation, Odom said, "It's my money." I won't argue the point, and I'm willing to speculate that at least some of the young basketball players may have been underprivileged. This still looks a lot like bait-and-switch.

Case 3. Bristol Palin took some heat a few years ago when

it was revealed that in 2009, as celebrity spokesperson for the teen pregnancy prevention charity Carolyn's Foundation, she'd been paid \$262,500 while a mere \$35,000 went to charitable causes. An off-the-record Neil Cole, the apparel industry exec running the foundation, protested that Bristol had been an excellent ambassador. "Bristol's work — which has included two television PSAs, one viral video, multiple print PSAs, two town hall meetings and six television interviews — has reached in more than ONE BILLION media impressions — an unprecedented reach for a teen pregnancy prevention campaign."

I have no idea how Cole came up with a billion impressions, but let's assume he's right. Let's also acknowledge that Bristol Palin is hardly alone among celebrities in getting paid hefty sums for a laughable workload (six interviews, one video, two town halls). The fact remains that, under the most favorable interpretation, the outcome of his Palin's labor was increased public awareness that becoming a pregnant unmarried teenager

is a bad idea, unless you're the daughter of a famous mom and can get well paid for it. No shit.

Point is, even if there's nothing illegal going on, celebrity charities often are still a waste of other people's money. That's not to say they're silly. The Elton John AIDS Foundation has raised more than \$200 million for HIV/AIDS-related causes and, according to its most recent IRS statement, more than 95 percent of its outlay went to programs and services aimed at people who needed them. And the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, which has raised about \$50 million, gives 91 percent of its funds to the cause.

How do you tell worthwhile charities from useless ones? These days it's easy. Two good online resources are charitynavigator.org and charitywatching.org — the latter has a box where you can type in an organization's name and get an evaluation in about 10 nanoseconds. The conspicuously bad actors aren't identified with lightning and flashing red lights, no doubt due to creative lawyers. No matter. The facts are plain as day.

### INFO

Is there something you need to get straight? Cecil Adams can deliver the Straight Dope on any topic. Write: Cecil Adams at the Chicago Reader, 1116 N. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60610, or [cecil@thestraightdope.com](mailto:cecil@thestraightdope.com).

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## Feelings

**“W**here are you, Jerri-geen? Middlebury, Montpelier, Stowe?”

Linda, a regular customer, was quizzing me on my whereabouts. The last couple of times she'd called for a ride, she caught me out of town with other customers and hence unavailable.

I chuckled, replying, “Nooo, I’m right in town, Linda. Whaddya need?”

“I’m up at Kmart with a couple of bags I bought, and some pillows.”

“Pee on any way, kiddie,” I said. “Less than 15”.

I enjoy all my regulars. Truly I’m selective about heading out my business card. It’s a key benefit to working as an independent cabbie — the ability to discriminate on the basis of blabbery.

Linda is a cool cat, but I’ve always enjoyed my rides with her. Earlier in life, she was a dancer and nightclub singer, even making it to Broadway with a featured role in *Shogun*, a musical based on the Pellini movie *8 1/2* and starring the late Paul Giamatti. So, wow, right?

And, being with Linda, you can tell. Now into middle age, she’s still vivacious, with her bobbed red hair, once laugh and yowl stories. They also mention three teenage boys alone and is periodically brash. She could be bitter — no one would blame her — but she is the opposite — still, actively involved in her church, the greater community and life in general.

In fear of Kmart, I helped her load her new home gear into the rear seat.

She dashed into the front seat, and we took off to her Archbold Street digs “Good stuff, Linda!” I said. “You actually can find some nice things at Kmart, I’ve found!”

“Yeah,” she said, “if you shop carefully. It’s been ages since I’ve bought any new things for the house. It feels great I just came into a little bit of money. I’m saving most of it, but I have bought a few things: items, like some new nice new shoes — and not from Payless, if you can believe it?”

“Well, you deserve it,” I said. “Did you have, like, what — a secret admirer?”

Money, it goes without saying, is a sensitive subject, but the degree of sensitivity varies widely depending on one’s position on the economic ladder. On the higher range, it’s virtually taboo to discuss personal finances, here on the lower, it’s no biggie.

“I wish,” Linda replied. “No, it’s my ex, who has owed me, like, a billion dollars in child support for years and years. He was involved in some land deal, apparently, and the state got wind of it and stepped up the proceeds. After deducting some taxes and whatnot, they sent me a bill check. I mean, we’re not talking ex figures, but to me, it’s a lot!”

“Well, it’s about time some good money comes your way. That’s just good. You got paid big time?”

“Yeah, I have all these issues to consider now. Like, financial planning, for Pete’s sake. I’m going to get some kind of credit card and start rebuilding my credit score, which is, like, atrocious at this point.

Maybe purchase an annuity with part of it. I really need to talk to people who know about these things. My, it’s nice to have first world problems to deal with for a change.”

Linda lives in a second-floor walking up an ancient and crumbling Burlington building. If it was in better shape, it might even warrant a “fine” or “appellative”. Together we carried her stuff up me, the bags, she, the pillows.

“How do you like my sofa?” she asked, as we dropped the goods in her living room.

“Quite snazzy,” I replied. “Where’d ya get it?”

“Home Depot. It’s actually new. Can you believe it? The last new couch I bought was probably a future. Yup, those were the days!”

Sadly, it takes her the longest thread of a prompt to spin me into song. “These were the days, my friend,” I belted out. “We thought they’d never end!”

“Not bad, Jerri-geen. Not bad. That’s one creepy song, but you do it justice. Aspiring about that, remember ‘Feelings’?”

“Oh, God — yes. Talk about heart-breaking music! That song actually hurts my feelings. Didn’t Sarah Vaughan cover it, though? She is one amazing singer, but that was just a bad choice.”

“I got a story about that. My band and I were playing some fancy hotel in Dallas. It might have been a convention of some kind. Anyway, all these rich Texas businessmen are drinking their brandies and Johnnie Walker and whatnot, and getting drunker by the minute. One of them stag-

gers towards the stage, pleading, “Feelings,” honey, “Feelings.” I love that song. I’ll give ya 50 bucks every time ya play it.” Yes, sir — he didn’t have to say another word. Feelings, nothing more than feelings. Trying to forget ya feelings of love.”

Even looking around with perhaps the most smug/cool pose of the ages, Linda sounded

fabulous. I’ll pay her \$50 to sing it, if I had the cash.

Giggling, Linda said, “I told you not — we never have played that sucker six times in a row!”

“Hey, I hear you!” I said, laughing along. “It’s like me. I have my standards, but I can be bribed!”

“Well, thanks for helping me today. Jerri-geen. You know I appreciate it.”

“My pleasure, Linda. Anytime, my place, anywhere. I mean, as long as I’m not out of town.” ☺

**INFO**

For a full-size monthly column that can also be e-mailed to [news@hackie.com](mailto:news@hackie.com), 12 issues, approach Portland: email [hackie@news@hackie.com](mailto:hackie@news@hackie.com).

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# GRAY is the new ORANGE



## Vermont's prisons struggle to accommodate an aging population

BY KATHRYN FLAGG • PHOTOS BY TOM MCNEILL

**A**n old man, slumped over and weak, scoots to the edge of his bed and struggles, slowly, into a pair of floor gray sweatpants.

"I'm going to make myself something to eat now," he tells the inmate resident making the rounds. "Shut away" his gestures to the continuum of instant noodles on a cluttered bedside table.

"They tell this is the commissary," Mark Potamus asks, not smiling. Then he moves on — through the 10 bed infirmary, past the offices of nurses and physician assistants.

Outside, in the sharp cold of a clear winter day, a few old inmates huddle in wheelchairs on the edge of a bleak yard, their standard issue orange smoking cups pulled snug over their ears.

And in nearby Charlie Unit, men sit quietly at communal tables, bent over playing cards and magazines. Their

adjacent single rooms are claustrophobic but offer a small, cherished measure of privacy. One white-haired man with an eye patch peeks out from behind his door, then retreats back inside.

Hospital? Nursing home? No. It's prison — though Vermont's Southern State Correctional Facility increases facility fees as all three.

Almost 10 percent of the prisoners at the 377-bed maximum-security prison in Springfield are ages 50 years or older, demographically speaking, that's how the "elderly" prison population is defined.

"They've had a hard life," says Potamus — himself a wrap-up, clean-cut 60-year-old — and it shows. The same factors that contribute to incarceration — chief among them, poverty and substance abuse — go hand in hand with poor health and limited access to care for medical, dental and mental health needs.

During a tour in late November, Potamus pointed off the details. Nine prisoners in wheelchairs. Roughly another 10 with walkers or canes. Men suffering from cancer, liver and kidney disease. A few showing early signs of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

"This is its own city," said Potamus. "Aging is a problem in society, and corrections is a microcosm of society."

The number of geriatric inmates nationwide is on the rise. In Vermont alone, the proportion of aging inmates more than doubled between 2000 and 2010, now accounting for 15.2 percent of the inmate population.

Vermont's correctional facilities are struggling to keep up with their needs.

"We designed Charlie with this in mind," Potamus said of the unit that became the first of its kind in Vermont when the prison was built in 1985. "However,

no one expected it to go so quickly." By July, Potomac is proud that half the steel beams in Charlie's 24 cells would have been replaced with adjustable, hospital-style beds. Now he's trying to figure out how to make the unit's second floor wheelchair-accessible without breaking the budget.

Correctional officials announced Charlie Unit is an assisted-living facility with bars. It's quieter than all the other areas of the prison, and the officials insist there have been the option of having their meals and meals brought in there.

In late November, demand for beds in that unit is already exceeded supply, according to Potomac. In the corridor, he passed an old man in a wheelchair pushing his walker up the hallway or extension of younger offenders. Old black can be loud, bellowed out and uncomfortable. Walks to the show hall or pill line get increasingly difficult to manage.

Older inmates complain that, as they age behind bars, they struggle to obtain adequate medical care. And there are other problems. Aging inmates sometimes fall prey to the bullying or extortion of younger offenders. Old black can be loud, bellowed out and uncomfortable. Walks to the show hall or pill line get increasingly difficult to manage.

## VOICES FROM THE INSIDE

In Vermont and the rest of the country, the elderly prison population is largely male. Men between the ages of 50 and 59 on the Vermont DOC outpatient rosters of the same age by 21 to one, according to correctional department data. Men over the age of 60 outnumber their female counterparts by 23 to one.

Springfield has the state's largest concentration of older inmates, including Vermont's most senior prisoner, 89-year-old John Stone, who is serving a sentence of 12 months to five years for several charges, including aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, violating an assault prevention order and simple assault of a law-enforcement official.

Vermont's oldest female prisoner is 71-year-old Hope Schenck, in for a 12-year-to-life sentence for killing her husband. She is imprisoned at the state's only correctional facility for women, Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility in South Burlington. The facility houses an "over age daily population" of roughly 280 incarcerated women during last fiscal year, in 2012, 12 of those women were over the age of 50.

St. James declined to be interviewed, but over a period of months, Steven Dapo talked with agency inmates at the Springfield prison. Through interviews, letters and phone calls, common themes emerged.

"Life is so lonely here," said Rich Hardaway, 66, on the waiting room at SBCCP on a recent Sunday morning, a cane by his side. Because of the arthritis in his knees and the necessity of receiving the eye prescription, he said he's spent part of the winter confined to a wheelchair.

"There's that sense to everything here is isolation, a wheelchair in a cage and some deprivation," said Murray. He hasn't always had so much trouble getting around. At 58, while serving time at an out-of-state facility in Virginia, Murray played left field for the commissioner's 21-year baseball team. "They called me 'The Beast'" he remembered.

Murray has spent the last 15 years in prison, serving a 15- to 30-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault. He was arrested in 1995 after reportedly molestating a young girl over the course of a decade.

"Daily, gosh, gosh. I'm not proud of it," said Murray. He came to complete a supervised treatment program for sex offenders and served enough time to be eligible for release. Why he's still locked up? Murray's case of approximately

200 minutes in the Vermont correctional system who, women behind bars only because they can't find housing the DOC considers "insufficient to address [his] risk" they pose to the community.

Murray doesn't know Charlie Unit, and, frankly, "I don't want to go there right now," he said. He's had a long time to think about his life down and the last during days or weeks when his knees are particularly bad, he said he hopes for the commissioner the unit would keep. Instead, Murray, when on a few minutes to push his wheelchair across the icy yard to the show hall.

Other inmates shared their stories in email and letters one told of a 73-year-old, a fellow prisoner who suffered from a painful rheumatoid condition. "He would for hours at a time watch real gag, which was heartbreaking to hear," inmate Rocco Jones wrote. Jones said he asked correctional officers to call for medical assistance but was rebuffed several times. "When he was transferred to the infirmary and his cell was cleaned, his mattress was stained [with] yellow beds."



**Vermont's Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield increasingly functions as prison, hospital and nursing home.**

Jones also wrote about an inmate, transferred to Southern State from another facility in late October, who wanted to use a CPAP machine to address his sleep apnea.

Steve is a 59-year-old Irish Allen, a former New Haven collection contractor to eight to 12 years behind bars for "loud and lawless conduct with a 40-year-old girl, and it took months to diagnose the alleged diet and alcohol as his lower back. At the time, he was serving time in a prison in Springfield, Vermont. (It was over crowding, Vermont contracts with the private Corrections Corporation of America to house inmates there.)

"I kept hammering, CCA sent me back to Vermont on a medical clip. Came back to Vermont Oct. 7, 2010 and here I sit," Allen wrote in an early December letter to Steven Dapo. "I use what you may consider doctor. She claims to be, but even so, she is no more of a doctor than I. For a pilot she told me here in Springfield, a lot of back surgery didn't help and wouldn't be right, so now I have asked

to get my medical records and a copy of my MRI so my outside attorney can look at them."

Will Hunter, a nurse who works to help former inmates find transitional housing after prison, makes no apologies for such prisoners. That they're old and a legal system they're committed serious crimes, many of which are sex offenses.

But that doesn't mean they aren't entitled to humane decency and adequate care, says Hunter. "This is the Department of Corrections... not the Department of You're Never Going to Change and We're Going to Take You Like Dr. House of Something You Did 10 Years Ago."

## DR. D.O.C.

The experiences of a few individuals don't speak for the system as a whole. That's the opinion of Debra Haverstick-Wilson, the director of health services for Vermont's state prison population. Known as "Dr. Doc," Haverstick-Wilson acknowledges that inmates don't always

get medical appointments right away — "I do think that in general everything seems to take longer when you are waiting for it in jail," she says — but nor do people who aren't nursing time, she points out. Prisoners with chronic diseases, such as diabetes or asthma, get in for check-ups every 90 days, and an in-house doctor and nursing staff act as the "primary care" provider for inmates.

Vermont's prison system provides much of its medical care through a contract with a private company called Concordia Services. The state's contract with CDS came under scrutiny this fall, after a report by State Auditor David Swafford criticized a "fee-for-service" agreement that provides no incentive for the contractor to contain costs.

The state cut \$4.2 million over budget on the nearly \$50 million contract during the first three years of its agreement with CDS. Though CDS recently extended its contract with the provider another two years,

# Corrections officials in Vermont envisioned Charlie Unit as an assisted-living facility with bars.



SLIP superintendant Mark Patenaude looks out over Charlie Unit.

## Gray Is the New Orange

Barre/Gray News says DOC is exploring the possibility of abandoning the prison health care premises in favor of a "long-term" model run by Vermonters. She said she thinks a small state — with a correspondingly small number of inmates in house — shouldn't have to rely on an outside, for-profit provider for health care.

Kavanaugh Brown says that the medical staff at Vermont's correctional facilities treat their prisoner patients as they would anyone else — that is, there is no discussion about why they were convicted.

Kirk Wool, 54, confirms it — he's 22 years into a 28- to 35-year sentence for kidnapping and aggravated sexual assault, a charge he still disputes. "I have no sense whatsoever that they are indifferent to the pain or suffering of inmates," says Wool in a phone interview.

But he does dissent on his inmates' way: some who are suffering — and suffering in prison, he says, is different than it would be outside those walls.

"It very quickly goes to a sense of hopelessness," says Wool, noting it's tempting to write off inmates as apathetic or resigned.

Prisoners can file complaints, called grievances. Some have gone as far as to sue the DOC for what they feel is

inadequate care — helped along in some cases by Wool, who drafted a bill-in-the-house form for prisoners looking to bring legal action.

Among the plaintiffs is 54-year-old Matthew Stevens, serving time for first-degree murder. "You wouldn't find a geriatric, kinder, softer voiced man in your life," says Wool, describing Stevens, who says he suffers from chronic pain, arthritis, hepatitis C and anxiety, among other disorders.

Stevens said he was sent to the OCA prison in Kentucky, where he was "generally denied medical treatment."

"I was returned to Vermont as I can get mail trays, made delivered," he wrote to *Barre/Gray* by mail. "Still being forced to walk to meals and meds."

Stevens' lawsuit against DOC Commissioner Andy Feltzer was dismissed last summer. Luckily, Stevens and, because he doesn't have a doctor or expert witness to testify on his behalf. He's speaking the demon. But the doctor every for the extraordinary hearing shows that Judge Robert Scott was "in good faith" to Stewart's situation.

"One of the hard parts is you want somebody in the system from having 'harder in jail' versus clerk write in the file, reporting the judge's remarks. Clerk change docs, go to the store, try remedy. You're stuck... Things you're talking about are very important. It's not as people in your shoes are in the system. Baby boomers not getting younger... if

think it takes a lot of courage to put your case to the judge, and I'm glad you did. I applaud it, but I am going to deny your petition."

## WHY NO TAKERS?

Ask experts why prisons are filling up with gray-haired men and women, and almost everyone circles back to one reason: long sentences.

Three decades of tough-on-crime politics have more convicts in Vermont, the number of prisoners serving life or "if actively life" (meaning the prisoner will likely die in jail) sentences doubled in the last decade, growing by up to 100 between 18 and 28 individuals each year according to the annual *Prison and Futures* report compiled by the DOC.

A 2012 Human Rights Watch report also found that nationwide, more older individuals are entering prison for the first time — though in Vermont the percentage of first-time "entrants" in correctional (arresting) individuals older than 50 has hovered between 7 and 10 percent for the last 10 years.

"Figuring out whether it's right or wrong, the economic cost of this rapidly growing aging population is going to be staggering," says Robert Gelfinger, a research

follow at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "And no lady's really standing that."

Gedfinger formerly served in the chief medical officer for the New York police system and has a post in the last two decades consulting for the corrections industry. He says few, if any, states have proportional costs as they relate to caring for older inmates and their growing infirmities. "Nobody's addressing the aging thing head on, as they should," he says.

Vermont corrections officials say they have not matched the numbers, but that their data suggests the demand for specialized medical treatment is rising. While DOC doesn't track those statistics down by age on an inmate and Figure report, Petrus estimates that two-thirds of the medical "transfers" from Southern State — meaning trips to an outside facility — involve older inmates. Diagnostic tests throughout DOC are up 40 percent over the last six years, specialty appointments increased 80 percent over that same period of time, according to surgery, 50 percent.

At Southern State, some staff members have received special training to deal with geriatric issues. The facility is also starting on a housekeeping program, training other inmates to tend to their fellow prisoners in their final days.

Another end of life option: The department is trying to find Vermont nursing homes willing to take in prisoners. Ideally, Petrus says, inmates could be housed in an extended wing of a nursing home with rooms to spare. But when the DOC first put out a call for such facilities, says Burroughs' stress, "We got one big goose egg for response."

Pellus says his department hasn't given up. Burroughs' firm got a lot of nursing homes with leads to spare from another branch of the Agency of Human Services, and is reaching out to them directly. Pellus is trying to enlist support from the Vermont Health Care Association, the trade association that represents more than 60 licensed nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the state.

There's a financial incentive on both sides to get prisoners out of correctional facilities and into nursing homes. While inmates remain in prison, their medical costs are covered entirely by the state. When an inmate goes into a hospital or nursing home for an extended stay, Medicaid kicks in. For their part, nursing homes stand to gain a higher reimbursement — one and a half times the normal Medicaid rate — as an incentive when they take in a prisoner patient.

Why so tight? Some homes have expressed concern for safety of their patients and staff — when released on medical furlough, the inmates are oversupervised police officers but aren't kept under special guard. But Burroughs' stress points out that they are typically no reform they pose little or no risk. "This person can't even walk," she says, talking about a theoretical patient. "How could they commit another crime?"

If Vermont nursing homes continue to turn away DOC patients, Pellus says the department may consider more extreme measures — like building long-term.

## A PLACE FOR REFORM

Advocates for prison reform argue against Vermont's prison policies regarding older men and women, citing both the high cost of incarcerating these older inmates and compassion for the plight of older men and women locked here.

"In terms of taxpayer dollars, what is the appropriate use of prison?" Rep. Stan Winkler (D-Burlington) asks. "To keep people away from the general public for reasons of public safety? Holding prisoners who pose an 'extremely low risk because of their age' in a waste of taxpayer money, and to maintain a waste of human capital."



**We call it the death house. It's the last place I'd want to be if I was dying.**

**ROD AND MURRAY**



Winkler has introduced a bill in the Vermont House that would allow the courts to grant "compassionate release" to certain inmates, including those diagnosed with terminal illness; those confined to a bed or a chair; or are older than 65 and suffering from chronic or serious medical conditions.

Arguably bill from Sen. Richard Ferris (D-Burlington) would grant automatic furlough to nonviolent offenders over the age of 65 who have served their minimum sentence.

Both Lapham, supervising attorney in Vermont's Prisoners' Rights Office, characterizes these efforts as "weak" in a system that needs a more comprehensive overhaul. But it's a start.

"I understand the emotion because they've committed some horrendous crimes," says Lapham. "They've caused a lot of harm and pain in the world. If you're going to make punishment a priority, they should all stay there, I suppose. But if you're going to make logic and common sense a priority, then we may be misapprehending our goals."

Pellus isn't convinced the state needs to make any changes. His point is to point them directly on the books that he says allow older inmates to be released on a case-by-case basis. The current system permits the commissioner to place an offender suffering from a terminal or debilitating condition on medical furlough "so as to render the offender unable to be physically capable of presenting a danger to any one." Pellus says the DOC used medical furlough three times in fiscal year 2012 and twice last year.

But Lapham's impression: "There are no provisions on the books that allow for medical release or parole, he says, but "the authorities... just seem to be kind of loath to do it." He recalls one inmate who he asked for medical release for a prostate that the DOC then denied "not such a strong" by the time the denial came via letter, "the guy was dead," says Lapham.

Dying in prison isn't a prospect anyone relishes — though Burroughs' stress says that some inmates do prefer to stay put among their fellow inmates, at the end. But it's the new reality, according to Pellus.

"There was a period when somebody expiring in jail was considered an outlier or not acceptable," he says. "But given the number of people that are older in jail, I think the department has put itself in a position where we [have] to do end-of-life planning for people now."

For some prisoners, those last days and weeks play out in the infirmary at Southern State, and it's anything but cheerful. Anonymous inmates click on over the loudspeakers down lock and unlock a staff common and go. "Prison is a noisy place," says Burroughs' stress.

Inmate Murray recalled visiting one of his friends there during the end of the man's life. He said he took his friend outside to the prison courtyard when he felt his going out. He sat at his bedside. "I heard he died peacefully," Murray said, but added that he doesn't know for sure.

"We called the death house. It's the last place I'd want to be if I was dying," Murray said.

The visiting room at Southern State is a dreary place, despite the colorful mural that adorns one wall. Two of them have during the hour of conversations, cradling another. They make their way physical contact between inmates and it is routine.

Murray was the only older man in the room. Asked how long it had been since his last visitor, he paused five years. His daughter has cut off his. His friends have disappeared. It's a problem for anyone with a longed sentence, worse for one with more past than future.

"All those years go by," and Murray "People die off. They go on with their life. And I don't blame them."

Contact: kathy@greenandgray.com

# Learning the Ropes

A Norwegian fitness system called Redcord keeps users in suspension

BY **CHRIS EISENBERG**

**R**opes haven't always been used as instruments for the happy purposes of hanging, kidnapping and—trusting no rational man is prone to mind. So when I enter the recently opened Peak Physical Therapy Sports & Performance Center in Wilmette, it occurs to me that this so-called "health center" might be a euphemism for something less-than-legal. Sure, the facility has dead weights and a smoother version, but pulleys dangle from niches in the ceiling, and through them smaller and bigger, longer cords and slings.

Turns out this is decidedly not a Fifty Shades of Grey-themed hangout den gone good. The suspension lines are part of a Norwegian fitness system called Redcord that's making its debut in Vermont. And, while they're not torture contraptions per se, they can make for grueling workouts.

Russ Dodge, a physical therapist and the owner of Peak, used to operate her business in South Burlington under the name Perfect Performance. She bought the Wilmette space last September and had settled into the November along with two other businesses. While Health Nutrition and Pure Strategy fit sporting under the same roof, Dodge says, they aim to serve as an extension of health and wellness services, or a "holistic spa."

"Most of the services we provide are kibble to exercise companies, with the exception of the performance training piece," Dodge says. "It's a little different than if you go to a health club or a traditional spa, because you're paying out of pocket for most of these services. We're trying to bring our arms around our clients and really have all their needs met in one setting."

This Thursday, January 27, Peak will hold an open house to introduce the public to its offerings, which include food, massage and personal coaching. But Redcord is hard to turn the most hands.

The system was devised in 1970 by Poulton Glauke, a Norwegian who had experienced severe leg pain for two decades. He finally jury-rigged a rope-and-pulley system to provide traction while he sat on his bed.

Redcord can be used for both physical therapy and personal training. When I go on, personal trainer Peter Blum shows me a few of its applications. First he ties a plank, an exercise in which you lie prone and prop yourself up on your elbows, keeping your body straight as a board. For the Redcord version of this exercise, Blum



A suspension Redcord

**Fitness**

wedges his feet into a sling hanging a foot off the ground.

"You're going to come up the same way you would with your feet on the floor, so contracting your core comes on up," she instructs me. "Can you feel the difference?"

"It's more of a workout," I agree with a groan.

"Obviously," Blum remarks as I feel legs to the floor. "You're in suspension, so your feet are not in a fixed place. They're up in the air, so how that translates into your body [is], your core has to work a little bit harder."

As I founder through each exercise, Blum adjusts the difficulty by changing

the length and arrangement of the cords. To make planks easier, for example, a sling could be placed under my midriff, supporting me in midair like Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible*. At the end of the session, Blum shows me how to simulate cross-country sking by doing lunges with one foot on the sling.

The science behind Redcord is known as Neuromuscular Activation (NMA). It helps users pinpoint and treat their muscle problems in a way that traditional, one-dimensional strength training doesn't. Blum, who runs horses, says the system helped her when she was having trouble keeping her right foot steady in the stirrup. Her physical therapist at Peak—Neuro-certified Kristina Moresano—used the suspension system to diagnose and treat her weak gluteus medius.

**A SLING COULD BE PLACED UNDER MY MIDRIF, supporting me in midair like Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible*.**

Moresano's certification is nationally. She holds dual memberships in Norway and the U.S., and her father comes from the same town where the technology is produced. After growing up in Kongs, Vt., she pursued a doctorate in physical therapy and later worked, under Moresano's vice president of research and development.

In 2008, Moresano and several other Neuromuscular therapists started a clinic of their own in Santa Barbara, Calif., but the economic meltdown threatened their start. Redcord has slowly been gaining ground around the world, though, according to Moresano, it's now used in 35 countries.

Norwegian golfer Bjarne Pettersen has endorsed Redcord, and several other pros, given the efficacy of campus-like suspension systems. In one notable study, a group of physical therapists working on three swings, was divided in two. One group used traditional strength training, while another used a Redcord kit of slings. The latter half ended up hitting the balls with twice as much velocity as the control group.



Robert suspended rigging



Kristina Marasovic is a patient

Neuromuscular scientific breakthrough took place a dozen years ago, Marasovic explains. In 2002, a therapist (being) Narvagin who had never been able to lift his arm above 90 degrees owing to a birth injury enrolled in a Neuarc program.

"Over the course of two days, he kind of contradicted all his beliefs in physical therapy, and he decided to push it harder. By the end, he was able to lift his arm over his head," Marasovic says. "We went back and really looked at the neuromuscular system, and how pain affects how and what muscles we use. If you have pain, your brain really runs on a different motor pattern."

By placing people in suspension — what Marasovic describes as a "closed kinetic loop" — the system has made it possible for individuals to stimulate muscles that may have seemed irreversibly damaged.

When Frank boots its open house, individuals will have the chance to try that "weak link testing." Gang-bus fitness juddas will be able to see how many types of certain exercises they can do with the aid, compared with conventional methods.

For Dodge, who says she has adapted a holistic business model, there is clear utility in a self-healing program that stimulates the body from every angle. "It's more functional. You're not just doing isolation exercises," she says. "We function in the world in these different planes of motion, and traditional exercise is really only looking at it in one plane." @

#### INFO

Frank Physical Therapy Sports & Performance Center has an open house on January 22 at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 300 Westpark Lane, Suite 100 in Littleton. Call 330-628-0285

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# Good Reads

Misty Valley Books celebrates two decades of hosting literary lights BY Margaret R. Arrington

**T**ucked on Chester's town green, Misty Valley Books is a quaint, one-level Vermont Cozy in its own right. On a street with no other shops and no other book stores, it's a place you'd expect to get visits from literary heavy hitters such as Donald Latham, Jennifer Egan, Steve Almond or Gregory Maguire.

In fact, all these authors have appeared at Misty Valley's annual New Voices reading series, which runs in 20th year this week. The series focuses on promoting debut authors, some of whom have gone on to Pulitzer and movie deals. Last year, a capacity crowd of 200 came to see Iliac Alexander read from his best-selling inspirational memoir *Proof of Heaven* in Chester's Old Stone Church.

"We work on New Voices all year long," says Bill Reed, who owns the store with his wife, Lynne. "It's ongoing."

"It's their labor of love!" says Thomas Christopher Greene, president of the Vermont College of Fine Arts, who read from his first novel at New Voices in 2004.

That labor started with Misty Valley's former owners, Dwight Canine and Michael Kohlman, who moved the store from Springfield in Chester in 1989 and named New Voices in 1994, drawing on their New York publishing contacts. The Reeds bought the 1,200-square-foot store in 2001 and eventually purchased its building at the price, which they now list as for New Voices. "We didn't realize at first that we would become the road," says Lynne Reed in a phone interview, "because we thought it was a cool thing."

Rather than waiting the traditional six to eight weeks between a full Vermont experience, starting with a Friday night dinner at home, where writers meet the community members who will introduce them. Then, bright and early on Saturday, "we pack them up," and make their go-kings," says Lynne, with a chuckle. "That was the first time I'd ever tried cross-country skiing, and that was a blast!" writes Heidi Dumas, author of *Believer* and the new winning novel *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky*, in an email. She adds that she's "in full touch with some of the people I met there one year from now."

Minneapolis literary Whitman, author of the forthcoming *Stationery* (a novel set in Vermont), says in a phone interview that a fellow reader at New Voices "became one of my closest friends in the world." It capped the event "a great introduction to the culture and the way of thinking."

The writers' Friday evening with the afternoon reading, a Q&A session, a reception at the church and dinner at the Pullerton Inn — all events to which the public is invited. At the end, "every one's exhausted but happy," Lynne Reed says.



To find such New Voices gas stations, Lynne combines catalogs looking for debut authors and attends Frankfurt American. Publishers also seek out the

reception at the church and dinner at the Pullerton Inn — all events to which the public is invited. At the end, "every one's exhausted but happy," Lynne Reed says.

To find such New Voices gas

**We Work on new Voices all year long. IT'S EXCITING.**

Reeds — but never does, not all find their authors' appearances. "It's tough days on publishing, and more and more they're refusing to pay," Bill Reed says. The several costs in recent years, writers have gotten here on their own merit.

Last year, for the first time, the Reeds began charging admission to the reading. "We were scared that people wouldn't come," Lynne says. But they had "no problem at all" filling the church — and covered their expenses.

"You get a lot of smart, interesting, funny literary types together, and sometimes it's bound to go wrong or go right," Bill Reed says. He recalls when Steve Almond (author of *Goodbye*) read from his 2008 collection *My Life in Heavy Metal*. "We were doing this in a church, and it was a little apprehensive about the content of some of the stories," Reed attempted to steer Almond away from a story called "How to Love a Republican" — in vain. But his friends were reassured when he saw that "the church ladies were laughing and laughing," he recalls.

This year's five authors cover a wide range from fiction to nonfiction, from fiction to poetry. Authors include Wallace, daughter of Alice, will read from her first novel, *All A Love Story*, set in Africa. Elaine Neil Gray's *A Different Kind* takes place in Africa, too — but in the 19th century. Peter Swanson's suspense novel *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky* features a girl who falls from a plane. *Stationery* by Heidi Dumas features a girl who falls from a plane. *Stationery* by Heidi Dumas features a girl who falls from a plane. *Stationery* by Heidi Dumas features a girl who falls from a plane.

"Publishing the first novel can be a surprisingly lonely thing," says Greene. "You have expectations and hopes for it, but you're also vulnerable because you've never put yourself out there like that."

A well-attended reading can change that. New Voices "was the first time I had actual physical connections walking up to me and asking me to sign books," says Heidi Whitman.

Independent bookstores like Misty Valley stay alive in the age of Amazon.com by making connections — hand-selling titles, recommending authors to readers. On that score, the Reeds' event gets high praise from Carole Deffen, a past New Voices author who also happens to be vice president of Penguin Random House.

"Misty Valley's New Voices series is really extraordinary. It provides a model of what should be happening everywhere to engage and foster a community of readers," she writes in an email. "It really shows what can be done, when it's done well."

**INFO**

Misty Valley Books New Voices, Saturday, January 25, 2 p.m., at the Old Stone Church in Chester. \$12. Info: 875-3422; website: mistyvalleybooks.com

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# All Directions Home

Book review: *If Only You People Could Follow Directions*, Jessica Hendry Nelson

BY MARGOT HARRISON

**B**ack when memoirs dominated the best-seller lists, it was tempting to believe that any writer with a gritty, harrowing past could generate an instant sensation (and sometimes, as in James Frey's case, a subsequent scandal). These days, however, reality TV outshines the public's appetite for human train wrecks. Unless you're a celebrity, it matters more how you write your memoir than what you can divulge to it.

**NELSON'S SKILL WITH  
WORDS IS EVIDENT  
IN EVERY SENTENCE  
OF THIS HAUNTING,  
OFTEN POETIC BOOK.**

All this is a fancy way of saying that, while Jessica Hendry Nelson's first book is a memoir of her gritty, harrowing past, it has little in common with the sensationalist best sellers that flocked a backlash against the genre. Widely published in literary journals, Nelson first in *Colchester* and co-edited the *Reverend Writers' Collective*. Her skill with words is evident in every sentence of this haunting, often poetic book. Divided into chapters that also work as self-sufficient essays, it slips and slides along the timeline of the author's life to demonstrate that past and present are inextricable.

In the prologue, styled as a letter to her younger brother, Eric, Nelson lays out the beats of the case. In rhythmic prose, she tells off a list of places

where the siblings visited their father when they were growing up in suburban Philadelphia: rehab centers, hospitals, jails, halfway houses. Most possess a list of places where their dad visited them — with careful supervision, or on the sly. By the end of the prologue, we know that the father is dead and the grown brother is repeating his cycle of addiction. But this story of loss, which gradually becomes a tribute, is only the beginning of the story.

It's a story of intense substance abuse passed from mother to father to son, and of two women — Nelson and her mother — who try to save their loved ones (and themselves) by "following directions." It's an ironic title, given that those directions are really just imperfect therapeutic tactics deployed "for the goddamn time," as Nelson notes in the title chapter.

This is also the coming-of-age story of a daughter who considered herself the "damned one," flirting with drug abuse in her teen years before finding sustenance elsewhere. We watch the younger Nelson learn to forgive herself for leaving home, then realize that in a sense she hasn't left at all. "I'd thought to bear witness to stone cold disaster and by leaving I had done irreparable damage," she writes of her family. "I didn't yet understand that we were like original sinners."

Really, this memoir is and isn't a "story" in the first place, in that word we mean an orderly narrative.



When we step back and view each chapter of *Directions* as a whole, we find a conventional sequence taking us from Nelson's childhood through her adolescence, her college years, a stint in New York City and finally her relocation to a cabin on Mellicott Bay in Vermont. But when we focus on each chapter in isolation, we see something less linear than kaleidoscope: a wild assemblage of memories with different time stamps. Only as we read do we become aware of the single narrative incident around which each chapter's flashbacks and flash forwards pivot.

Take, for instance "Fall," which opens with the image of a off-kiltering one that the adult Nelson observed in Scotland. It ends with a childhood memory of doing with her dad during one of his rare sober years. Between these two instances of falling (the

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FROM IF ONLY YOU  
PEOPLE COULD  
FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

[illegible]

We loved her instantly through the different moods, and noticed her narcissism that in phd, being behind the 1st penthouse as a whispering, for those that likes modern designs and a pure, this modern day Indian style can be personally doing more emotional, being said to show as the way it's hard to believe in the love of modern design, mine was just the opposite. I was after the great old penthouse, some of the things she said "I would not be narcissism anymore. The love is not narcissism" for those days, our minds all went, and looking that for more things, remembered by the founder of the series. We made a good show of ourselves when we needed to, but most of the time we showed up into our own bedroom, making and before the show is

That substance, when it arrives, is always local and unsettling, largely because of Nolan's skill with language. She has a knack for crafting sound bites that are breezy and

## BOOKS

years. Her brother "was born with a burning device for drugs" (Palm trees in Florida "straddle; a hint of sex, a flash of Marlowe Nature's fleshy thigh")

In more involved passages, Nelson evokes a whole place or time with a few artful details. Take this summing-up of her childhood:

This is when the world is no bigger than the space between home and the creek bed, and phone numbers don't have area codes. When a stray Barbie leg still occasionally pops up through the couch cushions. When I can work myself into a panic just by thinking about death.

Readers looking for an inspirational narrative or a guidebook through a lost one's addiction won't find it in *Directions*. Yet they may find a profound and weary understanding of their struggles. Each chapter pivots around its central memory, illustrating the obsessive, cyclical character of addiction.

Only this circular motion isn't futile. Like Frost, Naiman believes in an instant, writerly engagement with the past because, she suggests, that's how we experience life and is the only way to draw insight from it. "[W]hat we are is only a vestige of where we have been," she writes of a family gathering, "the dusky manifestation of an abstract set of memories, and even these are made

Indeed, the stories we tell ourselves about the past are always in a sense "made up" even when they don't contradict the facts (a boundary some memoirists have unwisely crossed). Each attempt to shape those bold facts into a story is an act of creation, an experiment. And Nelson's particular experiment is a master-stroke success. (5)

## INFO

**If Only Few People Could Follow Gorbachev**  
by Jessica Hensley Nelson, *Counterpoint*,  
208 pages, \$19

few's disastrous, the child's controlled and exuberant) has the essay's core: Nicholson describes the night of her father's death, which involved just another fall. By not starting there, the author has buried her lead, as journalists say. Yet somehow we still read each chapter with baited breath, waiting for a memory or motif to emerge and weave the vivid, disparate threads into coherent one.

# Family Circle

A bagel-making family learns to live with gluten intolerance

BY ALICE LEVITT

**L**eah Goldberg was not a healthy 11-year-old. When her parents finally took her to a doctor for chronic gastric symptoms such as vomiting and bloating, her blood contained no iron—a discovery that proved no surprise.

After spending her teens and early twenties visiting doctors, Goldberg finally encountered physicians at the Mayo Clinic who gave a name to the ailment that had haunted so many years of her life: celiac disease.

Now 25, Goldberg is not alone. Two years ago, her older brother, Kyle, received a diagnosis of gluten intolerance and a lifelong case of celiac-related colitis. Last year, her father, Ron Goldberg, got news from his gastrologist: "You're doing great, but your gluten is at the charts."

In short, this is a family that needs to steer clear of wheat. Too bad its members are part of northern Vermont's oldest bagel dynasty and current owners of the Bagel Market on Essex Junction.

The crowd-pleaser is not lost on the family. Ron Goldberg and his wife, Mary, had four children: Leah, Kyle, Sarah, who works in medicine, and eldest son Tad, who passed away in 2005. All of them grew up in the bagel business. Ron still totes a bagel a day, despite his doctor's recommendations. Kyle has scaled back on his gluten intake considerably. But Leah, the youngest, must avoid contact with any of the allergens that may make her devastatingly ill.

Now the family is working together to prepare food that "celebrates" every life as it can enjoy. That means embracing on the perhaps quainter quest to create the perfect gluten-free bagel.

Everyone has it in their DNA in being the ethnic specialty into the future, it is this family. Ron Goldberg's great-grandfather owned the largest bakery in Leeds, England. After a move to Lyndon, N.H., Goldberg's grandfather, Ruben, opened his first Burlington bakery on Riverside Avenue in the 1930s. The store soon turned out loaves of pumpkinseed bread and braided breads for families that dropped off pots to cook for the Sabbath. On Sunday mornings, much to the delight of Little Jerusalem locals, the Goldbergs baked bagels.

The better part of a century later, Leah Goldberg is learning to make products similar to those of her ancestors, only without conventional ingredients. Her cornmeal, rosemary, oatmeal with maple syrup and topped with chocolate and almonds, are a splendid



**GLUTEN-FREE BAKING ... DOESN'T HAVE THE GLUE — IT DOESN'T HAVE THE STICKY. THERE'S NO EASY WAY TO MAKE IT NOT FALL APART.**

LEAH GOLDBERG

vegie and gluten-free indulgence. Also great for paleo diet adherents, they're one of several gluten-free treats available daily at the bakery.

Goldberg herself must shun for more than just gluten. After testing out a list of allergens—dairy, rice, beef and sugar—she stops. "Let's start with what I can eat," she says with surprising good humor. It's a short list of plants and proteins.

Goldberg says she hasn't been able to work with types of baked goods for four years now. Approaching a batch of dough at 10 a.m., it's better when her father or brother is helping enough to make her break out in hives. Wearing gloves, she sits up high on the oven, though even that leaves her skin itchy. After years of contact, could make Goldberg, who's not an avid runner, seriously ill again. So she uses the skills she

learned in the vegan baker for Doherty Tea to cook for customers with allergies of their own.

Goldberg's greatest passion is for raw food. She says proudly that she's gotten her parents to embrace dishes such as the pud. But she notices at home eating perked, palmated morsels in place of noodles. Still, she says, she realizes that other allergy-free areas just want the closest replacement they can find for the frozen turkey breast. Leah Goldberg can't eat her own gluten-free bread, but every day she prepares a loaf to use in sandwiches. If that's not partners or the turkey breast that Kyle wants in house.

That bread is made with rice flour and sorghum, then bound with potato—all allergens for Leah, Kyle, who's here, a vital tester, says he prefers her to meet

FAMILY CIRCLE © P. 42



# SIDEdishes

BY COTY HIRSCH &amp; ALICE LEVITT

## Entrées and Exits in the O.N.E.

HELLO TO COMMUNITY CARE GOOD-BYE TO SARAH'S PLACE

Jennifer's Junk Kitchen's owner **PHOEBE GIBBS** has found many uses of the Lost Elm Café on the corner of North Street and North Winslow Avenue, once an activist center that hosted performances from the likes of Patti Smith and Gordon Lightfoot. When she opened in 1996, it "was the center of any Burlington experience," he says.

New Salem wants to recreate that spot — or at least its community spirit — at its new, nameless "social experiment," which will open on February 1 at 161 North Winslow Avenue.

Like its predecessor on the same block, this "experiment" will offer food — specifically, "good food and good company," Sooin says. But in a key respect, he hopes, it will diverge from its model. "Lost Elm Café" had the worst food and the worst coffee, and you were lucky if there was a *straw*, Sooin recalls. "Often times it was coffee in a cracked cup."

A sign out front of the former Global Markets space proclaims, "You are invited for dumplings and tea" from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. on opening day and every Thursday, Friday and Saturday after that. Sooin says he'll use the "beautiful kitchen" to prepare said dumplings — and that there are just the beginning.

Having already lined up a cook and kitchen manager, Sooin hopes to have four or five people join him as cooperative owners. As co-owners come on board, he says, culinary offerings will expand.

Sooin calls the endeavor "an anti-profit café." Rather than focusing on its bottom line, he explains, he hopes the community will re-

benefit from the new place just as he did from Lost Elm more than 20 years ago.

Sooin says he's avoided promotion on social media so that, when people start

arriving, they'll be able to experience the space without preconceptions. One of the first things they'll see will be a Genoa Grill menu on the bar. "I want people to come in and experience it — then take a picture," Sooin says.

Pictures are all that's left of the restaurant across the

street from Sooin's "experiment," **PARADISE PLACE**. Owner **MARGARETTA HARRIS** shares with Vermont's only Persian restaurant last week after two and half years in business. "It's too much," she told *Seven Days*' Eric Clark blog last week. "I just can't take it

SEE DORIS IN P.40

## Sweet — and Savory

SCAFFOLD KITCHEN TO OPEN THIS WEEK

After a parking, million-plus dollar renovation of the former Scaffold Supply building at 706 Pine Street, the staff of **LAKE CHAMPLAIN CHOCOLATES** will unveil their new culinary center on Thursday, January 23.

The colorful, 45,000-SQ-FT **SCAFFOLD KITCHEN** AT LAKE CHAMPLAIN CHOCOLATES anchors the 8,500-square-foot space. It's located on either side of an early education kitchen and a glassed-in production area for **LAKE CHAMPLAIN CHOCOLATES**.

BARBARA CARROLL/STAFF PHOTO



"It's a unique space, and it was fun to take an old warehouse and transform it into **AMALAPLANA**, LLC's founder, who worked closely with his son, son, and architect John Andrus on the project. Architect Donna Church of StudioArch Architecture created the design.

Chief **SARAH LANGRISH** has crafted a subtly French-inflected boutique menu for the café, which will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Egg sandwiches, quiche, granola, hot cereal and a frittata are on the menu. Items, as are doughnuts and pastries created by pastry chef **WOLFE MARRAS**.

At lunchtime, diners can snack on open-faced sandwiches — like tortillas — including ones topped with Tuscan white bean spread, mushrooms, radish and watercress. Also on offer are pressed sandwiches, such as one with ham, tuna, arugula and mustard, a trio of salads, including frites with ketchup and a poached egg, a **CAKES**

**CLOTHING-AND-CHOCOLATE** booth, and daily specials.

The office building's cream-colored house in the center of Lake Champlain's west door will move to South Road Kitchen, which will also serve an array of desserts such as chocolate pot de crème.

Blue Bandana, the beer-to-bar area of LCC, was founded by Eric Langman in 2009. Though he quipped that Blue Bandana probably seemed like a "tobacco" in its early stages, Langman is passionate about sourcing Fair Trade beans from cacao producing areas in Madagascar

and elsewhere. "Getting high-quality beans is the root of what we've been trying to do," he said, and on a recent day as chocolate maker **BOB MARCEL HARRIS** hand-sorted Guatemala cacao beans destined for Bandana's bright yellow cake, bean roaster.

Last week, Langman received sweet vindication of his work when he was chosen from among 1,366 entrants to win a 2014 Good Food Award.

On the other side of the culinary center from Blue Bandana, a long-green teaching kitchen is filled with wood and small stainless-steel tables for diners and classes. **BARBARA HARRIS** will christen the education space on Friday, January 26, with a roasting and butchering class, followed the next day by a session on savory winter tortas. On Monday, January 26, a Slow Food Local Cheese Tasting will feature cheese makers from **SHAGBARK FARM** (SALETS FORTYFIVE) and **SPRING BROOK FARM** (LAUREN THOMPSON), as well as cheese expert and author **JOY BOGARD**.

"This [teaching kitchen] allows people to get really hands-on, and for us to share our knowledge," said LCC marketing director **CAROL WILSON**.

New local professionals can look forward to breakfast meetings featuring South End's maple lattes and bowls of hot quinoa with roasted pears and almonds.

— C.H.

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## Family Circle



gluten-free breads he's tried. "I've noticed a lot of the places I go to use a lot of nutmeg [in their bread]," he says. "Tapioca is really sugary — so much that I get halfway through a sandwich and I'm really full."

Leah says Kyle is also a fan of her muffins. "Whenever I make gluten-free blueberry muffins, I have to say, 'How many did my brother take, and how many did we sell?'" Those pastries are made using almond flour and banana with no refined sugar. They're denser and drier than the Regel Marie's conventional version, somewhere between muffin and banana bread.

Yet a gluten-free bagel has proved elusive for the family. Before joining the family business, Leah planned a career

in dentistry and the scientific method series here with her baking experiments. "It's like chemistry," she says. "Gluten-free baking is like night and day with [regard to] flour. It doesn't have the glue — it doesn't have the sticky. There's no easy way to make it not fall apart."

Geldberg has tried many recipes, varying her ingredients and ratios on a regular basis. Even holding the dough in place rather than rolling it as with a conventional bagel hasn't worked. And, until her bagels are perfect, Geldberg won't put her family name on them.

More food after the classifieds section.

# **SIDE**dishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

anyone." Oberlander says that customers who still have unused gift cards should email her at [Richard@yahoocan.ca](mailto:Richard@yahoocan.ca).

The high 167 North Winooski Avenue will no longer be a destination for bunnies, kebabs and herb-speckled falafel, Oberlander suggests that the business will be back in some form soon. "We sure will be coming back for sure, but not as a restaurant," heeds the chef.

So who else can't wait until summer?

— A. L.



Fresh breads

## **Parting Curds**

TIM SAVIN LEAVES CHIEF-DUTY TO HIS NEWEST CHIEF-DE-CHOCOLATE.

The Vermont Creamery Council has hired its first ever executive director — and it's placed him from the top of the Vermont food world.

TIM SAVIN has left his job as executive chef and partner of Savin's Creamery & Bakery to become executive director of VCC.

"I am very excited to be working with Vermont Cheese and cheese makers," Savin writes in an email. "I have long been a consumer [of cheese], both in a wholesale capacity and a retail capacity."

Savin graduated from the NEWBURY COLLEGE in 1991 and worked in various high-profile Vermont kitchens, including the INN AT CHILLICOTTE PARK and the PROCESSION. Before he opened Crisp, he spent eight years as NECH's executive chef and served as the VERMONT HOUSE RESTAURANT's head chef.

— C. H.

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## **A [GLUTEN-FREE] BAGEL IS BORN**

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Savins says the gold medal awarding for the first time. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years.

Savins says he's particularly happy to be able to do this. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years.

He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years.

The idea of the gluten-free bagel was born. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years.

The result has the strong similarities of Savins' usual Montreal style bagels, which taste that slightly more like a soft, pretzel than his usual recipe. In short, when Savins says, "They're pretty comparable to a regular bagel," he's not exaggerating. He says the secret was finding a brand that would allow him to "put up" naturally. Savins' golden bagels are gluten-free, just as he does his regular ones, with no additives including Montreal seasoning, sesame and "everything."

Entrepreneurs by his success, Savins says that when it comes to gluten-free bagels, he's not alone. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years.

Entrepreneurs by his success, Savins says that when it comes to gluten-free bagels, he's not alone. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years. He's been in the business for 10 years.



In the meantime, the Bagel Market has plenty to offer gluten-free diners besides Leah Goldberg's baked goods and raw treats such as grain-free granola bars. Kyle works with Leah's chef brother, Larry Goldberg, on salads more elaborate than most sandwich-shop fare. The Market Salad has proved particularly popular. The base of spinach is topped with a marinated chicken breast, cranberries, candied walnuts and real onion. Its crown jewel is a medley of fresh Vermont Creamery cheese coated in gluten-free bread crumbs.

## **INFO**

The Bagel Market, 30 Route 100, Newbury Junction, VT 05255. [thebagelmarket.com](http://thebagelmarket.com)

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# Pizza of the People

In the center of Bellows Falls, Popolo quietly triumphs **BY CORIN HIRSCH**

I first noticed the Popolo sign as I drove through Bellows Falls two summers ago. Then I crined my neck so much that I almost crashed my car. The sign was innocuous enough, a white board covered in pastel oils and neon-soft lettering. The appearance of a new restaurant in Bellows Falls was sufficiently startling, however, to warrant a long double take.

Bellows Falls as a community with many riches. The one mile square village boasts with talented artists and old-school businesses, including an arcade and an art center. A local-run community radio station and a public-access television studio dole out eclectic music and civic booster. There's a 19th-century railway station, an opera house with a huge marie arena, a hydroelectric dam, one of the oldest canals in the country and a gorgeous brick downtown. Yet, like many former mill towns along the Connecticut River, Bellows Falls has textured on the edge of a dramatic reveal that never quite arrives. Its food scene is a heron of these changing features.

A few years back, when I covered Bellows Falls as a reporter for a local daily, I could begin the day with eggs at the Miss Bellows Falls Dinner, tuck into a Jonestown B.T. at Vermont Pizza & Cookies, Company and grab fresh meatballs on the avenue at BoccaLife on the Canal. In between, I might let Pat Frank's for loquacious or top story on my laptop in Elmwood Hall while waiting to enter a raucous self-help meeting.

It was a bonanza to see that blue morning food scene wither, especially as



A Parmigiano at Popolo

**A FARMER COMES IN THE BACK DOOR WITH SOME CHICKENS OR EGGS OR ARUGULA, AND IT GOES OUT INTO THE [JOINING] ROOM THE SAME DAY.**

**GARY SMITH**

restaurants and cafes can be so integral to a downtown's rebirth. A beloved restaurant caused Oana's closed after suffering heavy fire damage in 2006. BoccaLife's closed, too—or rather, became solely an auction house. Pat Frank's was once the

self-proclaimed "winest place in Bellows Falls," in reality one of the coziest places to eat in Vermont. It closed last year, as did the Miss Bellows Falls Dinner. Soon the only survivors of the town's once-booming food scene were the Dan Joy ice cream shop, an old-school Chinese restaurant called Joy Wai, a handful of fast food joints and the Vermont Pizzeria & Cookies Company.

That's why the first glimpse of the Popolo sign was so sweet and arresting. Since then, I've often made the 55-minute drive from my home to eat there. It's not because Popolo offers the best Neapolitan or pizza in the state, though they're both very good. Rather, the restaurant has some kind of X factor—a

confidence of place, mission, music and food—that keeps drawing in casually regulars like me.

Part of Popolo's history begins with Gary Smith, former manager of BoccaLife's Post Apache Studios, which in the 1980s and '90s recorded such artists as the Spinners, the Pretz, Elliott Smith, Yo La Tengo and Rindhead. Smith was also a producer, working closely with Billy Bragg, Throwing Muses and 10,000 Maniacs.

By the late 1990s, though, he was growing weary of Boston's pace. "I was moving toward some future I really didn't look forward to," Smith says. So he purchased a farm in Walpole, N.H., across the river from Bellows Falls. He knew a little about the burg but was soon to learn more.

"Small-town politics are pervasive here," Smith says. "It's also small enough that you can make a difference." He plunged into community life, partnering with artist Charlie Blanton to bring in musical performances, later he founded radio station WOOL 100.1 FM.

Smith also met and befriended John-Michael Misogojewski, then manager of the Walpole Grocery. In 2011, "new media and cigarettes," they began talking about opening a restaurant. For Misogojewski, that had to be a wood-fired pizza place.

At the time, the town's Wood Windham was undergoing an intense renovation. Much of it had sat unused for decades, and its owners were looking for a restaurant tenant. The brick, four-story hotel has a commanding presence at the town's center and a rich history that dates back to 1850 and includes a string of fires. Smith and his

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partners — who included friend Kristen Pelechuch — came to look. “The cutting had collapsed, and everything was in shambles. It had been established for 30 years,” recalls Smith.

The partners wanted to create the building’s anchor restaurant, but they lacked capital. In the fall of 2003, they followed the model of Clinton’s Restaurant in Hordwick and assembled 25 investors for what was to become a community-supported restaurant and concert venue. “We have doctors and we have teachers here,” Smith says of Bellevue Falls. “We wanted a restaurant that could serve a hamburger, that would not just be about fine dining. We also wanted a place where we could work with local suppliers.”

That inclusive ethos shaped the name Popolo, which means “people” in Italian. “As we built menus, we thought, ‘We’re trying to do the people’s work. Let’s just call ourselves ‘the people,’ really forthright.”

After months of fundraising, planning and renovation, the trio opened Popolo in May 2012. It is airy, elegant and spare, with wickered white walls, industrial pendant lights and enormous,

leaded glass windows facing Bellevue Falls’ central square. Wooden booths line both sides of the dining room, a concrete table runs down its middle, and the bar — Popolo’s focal point — is set against a wall of exposed brick.

Pelechuch, who manages the front of the house, created Popolo’s drink menu. It’s a crashworthy collection for those who care as much about their potables



Chef John Michael Hall in the kitchen.

as what’s on their plates. The succinct wine list offers thoughtful by-the-glass choices. Cocktails include local spirits and house infusions, such as the vanilla-and-black-pepper tinged Amaretto in a Winter Lemonade. Pelechuch cranks up the Wipole with Old Overholt Rye

infused with cacao nibs from nearby L.A. Burdock Handmade Chocolate. She also has an ever-changing selection of mocktails, including shrubs, a tangy cucumber blend of vinegar and fruit juices.

Popolo’s food menu is as broad in style and price as its founders envisioned, encompassing both rustic plates of pasta and carefully composed entrees. A chocolate board is loaded with almonds and olives, pan-seared trout tartare is stuffed with olives, and lasagna triangles of pasta come shrouded in melted Fontina and eggplant caponata. Fresh mussels are piled in a theme-sectored white wine broth. Ratatouille and specials include fresh, tender papardelle skittered in a silky soup, and flaky roasted cod kissed by a traffic-stinged beurre blanc.

Along with the imaginative apps and the midweek crowd watching on any given night, I measure two things in particular at Popolo. These are the occasional appearance of fresh oysters with mignonette (not so common on this side of the state) and the patio.

The chewy dough has the depth of flavor that comes from a long, lazy rise. The Porreppo, a gooey mass of tomatoes,

cheese and pesto, is smothered and topped with curls of prosciutto. Special pizzas, such as a whole pie of smoked mussels drenched with tomato-balsamic jam and topped with arugula, are sublime. Much of Popolo’s produce is grown in Windham County, but you wouldn’t know it from the menu. Here, locavorism is a down-low kind of thing.

“We’re not only hiring these people into town, we’ve also got them in direct contact with the agricultural products of their region,” says Smith of Popolo’s donors. “A farmer comes in the back door with some chickens or eggs or arugula, and it goes out into the [dining] room the same day.”

In his 1998 detective novel *Bellows Falls*, Newline author Jordan Meyer calls the village “sunny” and “densely-cosmopolitan-styled” — success years later, Smith strikes a more hopeful tone. “We turned on the lights on one end of the street,” he says. “This is a beautiful little town with a problem at its center that was dark. And now it’s not.” ☐

#### INFO

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S. G. Kuvshinov et al.

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**J. Appl. Ecol.** 2006, **43**, 978–987. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2656.2006.01081.x  
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*Journal of Applied Ecology*, **43**,  
978–987

### References

**Author:** Lutz El-King, Dr. - 433 Edward Ave #1000,  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Creating success from  
40 years of experience, the physicist presents:  
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JAN 28 | MUSIC

## Thrice as Nice

When pianist Sam Zolotorovets, violacello Huzana Kender and cellist Patrick Lee formed The Canines of Vermont's Marlboro Music Festival in 2006, they topped into something special. Booned by shared musical values, the trio won the 2009 Marlboro International Chamber Music Competition, then debuted at Carnegie Hall the following year. Known for a repertory reported to be classical and modern works, the threesome is also noted for its modern pieces by American composers Leon Kirchner, Richard Dinklage and Augusta Read Thomas, among others. The group performs opens by Beethoven, J.S. Bach and Schubert as part of the North East Kingdom Classical Series.

## It Is AVALINA

Sunday, January 28, 3 to 4 p.m., South Congregational Church in St. Johnsbury. \$2-18. Info: 828-6921. [www.avalina.org](http://www.avalina.org)



# Masterful Mélange



JAN 28 | TALKS

## Locavore Legend

In the local food movement, Greg Ford Nishize is something of a pioneer. An environmentalist, agricultural ecologist and award-winning writer, he has dedicated his career to the relationship between ecology and culture in the American Southwest. Food in Arizona, the MacArthur fellow author of the nonfiction Native Seeds/SEARCH, which began in honor of Tucson's O'odham Native members who preserve their heritage with centuries-old crops. Currently a research social scientist with the University of Arizona's Southwest Center, Nishize shares his life-teaching knowledge in "Dipping into the Wisdom of Traditional Purposes: Sustainably Growing Food in the Face of Climate Uncertainty."

## GA Y PAU N Aghan

Tuesday, January 28, 6:30 p.m., at Empson Hall, Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H. Free info: 603-755-3333 ext. 364. [dartmouthcollege.edu](http://dartmouthcollege.edu)



JAN 29 | MUSIC

## Pitch Perfect

Violonist Isabelle Frost and pianist Alexander Melnikov are two of chamber music's most prolific talents. Both multiple award winners, they have performed with the world's top orchestras and established reputations as innovative artists. Together, Frost and Melnikov find common ground, combining their playing styles to great effect. The Guardian deems them "ideal partners, working off the musical dialogue with poise, imagination and freedom." At Middlebury College, they accept their Grammy Award-winning interpretation of the complete Beethoven sonatas alongside Weber's sonatas and Schubert's Fantasies in C major.

## ISABELLE FROST & ALEXANDER MELNIKOV

Tuesday, January 29, 7:30 p.m., at Middlebury Center Middlebury College, 56-25. Info: 802-647-3333. [middlebury.edu](http://middlebury.edu)



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# Celebrating 30 Years!

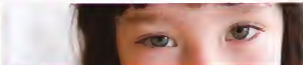
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- 1997 BUILDING BLOCKS FOR LITERACY® launched and disseminated at no cost to over 2,750 early care and education providers
- 2005 Promoting Early Literacy Through Professional Development for Childcare Providers published
- 2007 Established the Cynthia K. Hoehl Institute for Excellence demonstrating best practices and underwriting instructional services
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## Message from the President



On this wonderful Stem Center anniversary, we also celebrate neuroscience advances that have improved our knowledge of learning. Over the past three decades, it has become possible for us to actually view the brain at work. Through use of fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging), scientists have been able to watch what happens during reading and have discovered the neural signature for dyslexia. Even more amazing, we can now watch brain activity shift as a consequence of instruction. So, when teachers show learners how our brain language works, students become more efficient readers. Very thrilling!

It is this research which emphasizes the importance of early childhood, a critical period of brain growth. We are pleased that our playbased programs for early, oral and auditory providers as well as parents use best practices in language enrichment to promote success for our youngest learners.

Neuroscience has also explored the frontier of emotional intelligence. Being able to collaborate and empathize are key to human relationships, whether for a 7 year old attending a birthday party or a corporate executive at a leadership summit. We see children and adults who benefit from social learning strategies.

Happy 30th Anniversary Stem Center! We celebrate all the talented brains who come through our doors and feel privileged to bring the wonderful outcomes of neuroscience to them. And thank you to all who have supported us in this lifelong journey - we really have only just begun!

Blanche Rodheyske, PhD  
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Clara Fiske Professor of Fluency  
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# File Under?

Four more local albums you probably haven't heard

BY DAN BOLLIS



**S**o many records, so little time. *Seven Days* gets more often submissions than we know what to do with. And, given the ease of record making these days, it's a bit of a cult to keep up. Still, we try to get every local release that comes across the music desk, no matter how obscure or far out.

To that end, here are four albums that likely fit you under the radar of your average West coast music fan. In some cases, they represent the commonest boundaries of local music. Others simply slipped through the cracks. But each is worth a listen. ☐

## GORGON, *GREATEST HITS EP*

(Stick Shift Records, CD, digital download)

Though relatively short-lived, Berkeley-based riot grrrl Doll Right o' and lasting contributions to the local music community and, in particular, the punk scene. The trio was instrumental in the creation of Rick's Back Porch, the rock and roll day camp that empowers young women to channel their inner John Mellencamp. And Doll Right o', too, releasing a handful of recordings during their brief tenure that provide an invaluable soundtrack to the band's larger legacy.

Though Doll period ways last past the band's breakup, Kelly Still, soldier on in the Queen City. She founded Stick Shift Records, a label that has released a pair of impressive compilations featuring feminist punk bands from around the globe. These albums o' arrive from hands closer to home, as well, including from Doll's latest project, *Diapers*.

That band's 2010 debut *diapers*, the cheekily titled *diapers* EP, suggests Gorgon is a worthy, if anyone, heir to Doll. While Doll Right o' relied on a mix of angry energy and o' and humor, Gorgon attacks with unbridled, careening fury. Songs such as the head-banging "Hangover Dreaming," "I Hate Things Like Just an End Green on Lake Champlain" and "Start Up" are punning and savage, while the shaggy "Street Talk" is anguished and deliberate. At a mere four songs and eight minutes, this EP is short and angry, but so is not, which is precisely the point.

gorgonrecords.com

## STEPHEN SAUNDERS AND THE STARLIGHTERS, FEATURING RICHARD CRABTREE, *ACOUSTIC SHADOW*

(Self-released, CD)

Stephen Saunders has been around since 1991, he hosts the wave of his brother, Doug, who passed away in 1999. But that's not as spooky — or easy — as it sounds. And it was one of those late-night calls from beyond the grave that inspired Saunders' latest record, *Acoustic Shadow*.

For the uninitiated, Saunders has been writing music for about 40 years. He and Doug played in a band called Arcana, which achieved some popularity locally before Doug's passing. Though he stopped performing after his brother died, Saunders continued writing. Last year he released a collection of those songs, the homegrown *From Me to You*.

*Acoustic Shadow* picks up where that album left off — and so it more easily pop-rock suggests from Saunders' voluminous songwriting vault. Once again, he shows that he knows his way around a good hook. The title track and album closer, "What a Wonderful Night" — the latter originally penned in 1979 — are both strong examples of Saunders' classic rock-infused songwriting prowess.

Unfortunately, Saunders is again short-changed by the limitations of his home recording setup. Someone needs to get this guy a good backing band and a pro studio to give his tunes the treatment they deserve.

To order *Acoustic Shadow*, email Stephen Saunders at [step@500music.net](mailto:step@500music.net).

## STOVEPIPE MOUNTAIN BAND, *STOVEPIPE MOUNTAIN BAND*

(Self-released, CD)

Vermont will likely never see a shortage of mountain music. And with their recently released self-titled debut, *Stovepipe Mountain Band*, the five local acts the worthy entrants into the crowded fild of Green Mountain Americana.

Centered upon the talents of Keith and Kathy "Square" Pickens — on harmonica and keyboards, respectively — SMP trade in an agreeable, well-worn amalgam of rock, folk, country and blues. The band's freshman outings o' are a study mix of traditional numbers and original songs made for picking on the back porch or in colder months, around the woodstove.

[stovepipemountainband.com](http://stovepipemountainband.com)

## PITZ QUATTRONE, *MOVIN' EP*

(Self-released, CD, digital download)

Is the world ready for deluge rock? We're not sure. But at least Vermont-based deluge-rockers Pitz Quattrone certainly think so. And the *Five o' Mountain Band* front man makes it even, strongly and strongly, on his latest EP, *Movin'*.

If the EP title were to be taken seriously in the deluge, the track might sound something like the opening title cut, a newly little number that's as danceable as it is energetic — which is to say quite a bit. However, the groundbreaking track of Quattrone's deluge rock falls away to the back of the following track, "Hey Gussie." The song features a heavy dose of o' and response between the deluge and fanned-out guitars, the latter courtesy of local blues man Sherry. That chaotic dynamic is explored even further on the next track, the cheekily punny "Gussie Toot."

But that's all prelude to the EP's epic and exhilarating finale, "Belly Moon." The song pays homage to Quattrone's childhood blood brother, Billy Moon, who died young from alcohol poisoning. Here Quattrone contrasts the deluge rock's raucous, winter tones with Michael D. Kennedy's wailing wails, building over a span of nearly eight minutes a mood that is both mournful and angry. It is a challenging but immensely rewarding listen that makes great use of Quattrone's unconventional instrumentation and equally unconventional songwriting style.

[pitzquattrone.com](http://pitzquattrone.com)

# soundbites

BY DAN KELLEY



Bob Beano Parker

## In Memory of Beano

The Burlington music community was dealt yet another blow last week when we learned of the passing of **BOB BEANO PARKER**, 56, was the guitarist for a slew of local punk bands, including **3 TRACTORS**, **NAFION OF BATS**, **YOGAN SHAGS**, **CRIMINAL**, and most recently, **ONE AMERIC**. But it was his role as a founder of pioneering local punk the **WARDS** in the late 1970s that will likely be Beano's lasting legacy.

For the young/uns — or the non-punkers — the **WARDS** are generally acknowledged as Vermont's first punk band. Sure, punk would have eventually found its way to the Green Mountains had not the **WARDS** picked up guitars and started churning out

three-chord anthems such as "Weapons Factory" — their signature song and a tune whose anti-war machine lyrics are still as relevant today as they were when first put to tape in 1984. But by most accounts, the **WARDS** were the first to do so here. Because of that, and because they were pretty good, the band earned a sort of mythical status in Burlington. When they decided to crowd out of the garage and play a show, even some 30-plus years after they started, it was news. And Beano was a big reason why.

**PAUL ALBION** was a longtime friend of Parker's and engineered the **WARDS** seminal 1983 record, *The World Ain't Pretty and Neither Are We*. In a recent

phone call he described the first time he saw Parker onstage, playing with the **X-Tractors** at the now defunct Burlington nightclub **Hearts** in 1978.

"At the time, Hunt's was mainly for folk singers," says Albion. "So Beano comes out with a guitar and an amp and a folk guitar. People were looking at each other like, 'What the fuck is that?'"

"Then he starts chugging up the folk guitar into splinters," he continues. "Half the crowd just got up and left."

That's pretty punk rock, right? But Parker and the **WARDS** were not mainly shock artists. As "Weapons Factory" and countless others of the 100 original songs Parker wrote prove, the **WARDS** were a dirty political band. And, according to Albion, they backed it up like when the **WARDS** ran for mayor of Burlington. As in, the whole "trigga" band.

"A lot of people don't know they ran for mayor against **WOMAN CANNIBALS** in 1982," Albion says. He adds that the band ran ads announcing its candidacy in the *Vanguard* Press newspaper — an old weekly that was an evolutionary precursor to *Scene Daily*.

"Those ads were fucking hilarious, man," Albion recalls.

Since the *Vanguard* now pretty much exists only as a microfilm, likely somewhere in the bowels of the Fletcher Free or Bailey/Hovey libraries, I contacted *Sounder's* office for comment on that score. According to the distinguished senior's spokesperson **MICHAEL BARNES**, no one in *Sounder's* comp recalls the **WARDS**' Bengies are bad to rule Burlington, adding that there was not a mayoral election that year — **Sounder's** ran for election the previous year and entered office in 1982.

According to **WARDS** vocalist **YAN OWENS**, speaking by phone from Florida, the band's mayoral run was a joke that "happened sometime in the 1980s," though he's unsure of the exact date. He says the band did run regular ads in the *Vanguard* about their music candidacy. His favorite slogan? "Muscles on the Waterfront."

"We thought it would be a good money maker for the city," says Carley. He recalls that his first show with Parker, long before the **WARDS** came together, was at a now-defunct bar in Burlington called the **Wimber** Lounge.

— DAN KELLEY

**live culture**  
VERMONT ARTS NEWS • VIEWS

For up to the minute news about the local music scene, follow @liveculture on Twitter or read the Live Culture blog [www.danp/svendaysvt.com/liveculture](http://www.danp/svendaysvt.com/liveculture).

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12 SPEED. HUNTER.

**PARTICLE**  
12 SPEED. HUNTER.

**EMANCIPATOR**  
12 SPEED. HUNTER.



# SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35



"There was a guy playing drums and we asked him if we could get up and play a few songs," says Carley. He says Benzo grabbed a guitar while he "made up a few lyrics on the spot" and they hit the stage.

"We got booted out of the room after about five minutes," says Carley. "And that's how it all started."

"I don't think I'll ever be able to write another song without Benzo," Carley continues. "He was the heart. He was Burlington."

Though he wasn't exactly a household name, Benzo Parlier was a pioneer. The Wards paved the way for countless punk bands who would follow, from the **RAKS** to **CHALKHEADS** to **AVY JAW** to the current kings of local punk, **ROUGHFRANCE**. (Full disclosure: **RF's** **BOBBY FRANKLIN JR.** works for *Seven Days*.)

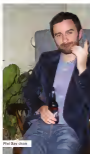


Photo: Ben Parlier

Would punk have made its way to Vermont without the Wards? Of course it just so happens that it did because of a guy in a gorilla mask with an axe who got booted out of his first gig. Thanks, Benzo.

## BiteTorrent

Just as a band's up, some of Benzo Parlier's musician pals will be getting together to pay tribute at the Monkey House this Thursday, January 24. The final details are still being ironed out, but you can expect to see **AMERICAN MATH** and **WOLFGANG**, two bands with Wards DNA. And, while it's not confirmed, I've told them a chance the remaining Wards might get together for a rendition of "Weapon Factory."

Meanwhile, after a four-year hiatus, the Great Green Mountains **AND DYLAN** Womale Contest is returning this Friday, January 24. If you don't recall what that is, it's, um, exactly what it sounds like. Twenty-five contestants will gather at Montpelier High School Auditorium and do their best Dylan impressions, as judged by a panel of local "celebrities." Personally, I'm of the opinion that every songwriter of the last 40 years is essentially a Dylan womale, but that's beside the point.

All proceeds for the show benefit Vermontnot, the "community sustainability game of epic proportions." (If you want to know more about that, see the April 12, 2013, *Seven Days* story online.)

In comedy news, last fall's Vermont's Funniest Comedian contest at Club Metronome was a show for the ages, featuring many of the area's brightest comedic talent. The highlight was **PAUL RAVENHILL** offhandedly referring the "hardest

person in Vermont" to conversation by winning the whole thing. Seriously, he was incredible.

One of the prizes for winning was headlining a future show here along with the contest's other winning contest — a list that includes **JOHN NEW**, **AMAR BROS**, **WOLF CANNES** and **CARLOS LAMAR**. Catch that show at Hotel Vermont in Burlington this Saturday, January 25.

Last but not least, a branch of *Four* journalistic integrity!

This Friday, January 24, Champlain Valley Union High School — my alma mater — will host a show called "Local Legends: An Evening of Acoustic Music" to benefit Responsible Growth Hiking, an organization whose tagline is "Don't Williston Hikeabout!" (OK, I made up that part.)

Anyway, among local legends are composer **MICHAEL CHANNY** with cabaret folk songwriting **MARKUS SMITH**, folk guru **PIET RUTHERFORD** and local legends **JAMES MANDERL** and **BOB FERRIS**, who will be joined by **EVAN'S JAM FUSION**. Oh, and my brother, **THE TOLLES**.

Naturally, I would decline to write about something my brother is involved with, but look at that lineup. Pretty impressive, right? And it's not their fault one of the key players happens to share my DNA. And it's for a noble cause, so it deserves some ink despite my conflict of interest. Don't go to see my brother play. Go because you can help save Hikeabout from the clutches of Hikeabout. Or to see **Fishman**. Whatever. ☺

## Listening In

... pick up what was on my mind, I have to say, right about, right about, right about, right about.

**MELODY**, from *Signs*  
**MAKING PINE**, Too Much Information

**LARRY**, The Whore  
**MALE MESSAGES**, Out of Sight  
**MARILYN**, Sheroes



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# REVIEW *this*

## Adrian Aardvark, American Aardvark

(SELF-RELEASED CD, DIGITAL, DOWNLOAD)

It's unclear whether "Adrian Aardvark" is the pseudonym of Christopher Righesi or the name of the collective of musicians with which the Hertsfordham-based songwriter surrounds himself. It could be both. Or it could be neither. When it comes to Adrian Aardvark, clarity is in short supply. And that's not necessarily a bad thing.

In 2012, AA released a charming collection of material called *Midden Magic Revival*. Featuring 15 musicians, the record was a dark and disorienting affair, inspired by a profound personal trauma suffered by Righesi earlier that year. It was, presumably, a cathartic release for an author that for listeners the album proved a grueling exercise, almost as though Righesi were chiding us to examine ourselves in his own anxious pain through confounding compositions and only taste-fugitive vocal beads.

Righesi and co. are back with a new effort, *American Aardvark*. Featuring a smaller consortium of

players, the record has a leaner and noticeably lighter feel than its untitled predecessor. It is no less bewildering and complex, but, lacking the pervasive sense of dread that characterized that record, Righesi's latest is more accessible. Relatively, anyway.

Much to Midden Magic Revival presented Adrian Aardvark as something like a twisted version of British Social Scene, *American Aardvark* implies a warped creative spirit. Tracks such as "Lonely Benny" and "Benny Rose" practically vibrate a jumble of broken timbales, sopranos and string instruments around Righesi's low-toned, strident, or occasionally peering. It's a mess. But, like a disoriented heebie, it's a weirdly comforting mess. There's a core familiarity and the detritus.

Throughout the record, Adrian Aardvark has incised a strange little interlude, an occasional string of notes to exist solely for the pleasure of the band. These include a glitchy tune ("Uhhhhhhhh"), a haunting studio outtake ("Time Travel in 2012"), the wildly unrecognizable ("Uhhhhhhhh") and a three-minute dozing ramble ("Bathhouse Party"). But rather than



distracting, the idiosyncrasy of each track in the action has a unifying effect. They are loose threads that somehow stitch the fraying tapestry together and give the actual songs some context.

*American Aardvark* may never have mass appeal. Even among those who like this pop on the experimental side, the record may prove too strange and unaligned. But for those with the aural fortitude to brave its peculiarities, it's a fascinating listen.

*American Aardvark* by Adrian Aardvark is available at [adrianardvark.bandcamp.com](http://adrianardvark.bandcamp.com).

DAN ROLLIS

SCAN THIS PAGE WITH LANE  
TO LISTEN TO TRACKS



## Spencer Lewis, A New Path

(WINDMILL MOUNTAIN CD, DIGITAL, DOWNLOAD)

Throughout much of his earlier career, Vermont composer Spencer Lewis has tended to present his instrumental recordings thematically, whether on the postcard splendor of 2007's *Green Mountains Suite* or, more recently, the dramatic post-triumph opus *Vermont Reconstruction*. It is curious, then, that *A New Path* would title his latest instrumental work so comparatively vaguely. A *New Path*, Curious, because at no point in the album's 50-plus minutes does Lewis lay out any distinct new direction. Instead, he has presented a no-nonsense work that

is very much open to interpretation, an album that can be experienced casually and simply as serene background music. Yet it can also reward more engaged listeners, those who will pay close attention to its rich textures and shuffling string lines.

Lewis is a technically gifted guitarist and violonist. And throughout the album he provides ample space for those talents to roam. From the bright, lively melodic tangle of "Into the White" to the brooding, ethereal expanse of songs such as "Didi Moose" and album closer "Some Morning Star." Lewis crafts writing, using soundscapes. Think of the album as Americana for the new age set.

Lewis is aided by pianist Armina Lewis, mandolinist Kristina Seylon and drummer Jeff Berlin. Each of those instruments shines in moments, adding varying degrees of texture and balance. But Lewis rightly remains the focus. While his picking plays a melody line on guitar or providing touch for the stringophony on violin, he is masterful.

What is most affirming about the record is the coloring, basic nature of Lewis' compositions, not necessarily his individual instrumental performances. From start to finish, his works blend together seamlessly, almost hypnotically. It's hard not to lose yourself in the warm wash of the violin, the quiet ripples of piano or the gentle thrum of guitar. In lesser hands, those working styles could've gone too close to earnest, impressionistic schlock. But Lewis' coolly suggests that transcendence begins with grace and grace. A *New Path* is a record characterized by its soaring beauty, which is grounded by Lewis' own sense of restraint and taste. Those qualities open each of his compositions to personal contemplation and invite listeners to derive their own meanings, to find their own paths, from his stirring tones.

A *New Path* by Spencer Lewis is available at [spencerlewisrecords.com](http://spencerlewisrecords.com).

DAN ROLLIS

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# Strange Visitation

"Roadside Picnic," Flynnhdg

**T**he Best American ecological concept of pin-ging, or complementary opposites, receives vivid—and sometimes humorous—visual expression in a show by a pair of Japanese artists at the Flynnhdg gallery in Washington.

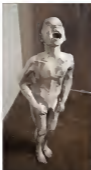
Kazuo Sawaguchi, Gilbert and Michael Hartman both take fallen leaves as their subject. One set of works is notationally colorful and composed in microscopic detail on snow-white, vertical scrolls. The other consists of black, crumpled forms lying on the floor like remnants of a blown-out truck tire. Together, the very different treatments achieve a cohesion that causes viewers to consider nature's instability and subtle humor.

Working with East Hardwick printer Minnie Phelps, Gilbert has created high-resolution gelatin prints of a dozen types of leaves, some with holes punched by worms. But she found out her boss in Flynnhdg: Gilbert used a scanner to digitally dried specimens to shoot 10 times their actual size. She and Phelps then painstakingly transferred the images to long sheets of rice paper. It took two hours or more for the ink jet process to achieve the desired quality for each of the prints. Gilbert said is an answer last week at Flynnhdg.

The coloring of art produces an almost three-dimensional effect. The crimson leaves—of oak, elm, aspen, midwestern, some poplars and five varieties of maple—pop out from the paper as though they were whole. Their colors, and you'll be amazed.

Gilbert's ultra-precise prints are as composed by Hartman's busy, busy illustrations. These seemingly casual constructions, scattered on the floor like discarded leaves Gilbert's scrollwork is actually like faded shades of black wax! But it quickly becomes clear that they are also enlarged made-up of leaves—in this case, as composed by crawling bugs. Hartman's prints are made of black photocopy paper painted and layered into thick forms, the explained during a recent visit through the Japanese gallery in New York's Museum of Art.

With intricate crumpled, some of the most intricate themes has alongside



**THE OVERSIZE LEAVES POP OUT FROM THE PAPER AS THOUGH THEY WERE BAG-RELIEFS. PEER CLOSELY, AND YOU'LL BE BEDAZZLED.**

This light-hearted, beguiling composition, surface sharp departure from Hartman's earlier, more somber, also made of several layers of photocopy paper, which depicted, like a child's and body parts. One of these pieces—a screaming girl, her head thrown back—is included in the Flynnhdg show. Along with a well-hung remnant of treated wings by Gilbert, this involving it goes by Hartman's part titled "from the rest of the artists' works, which are collectively titled "Roadside Picnic."

Gilbert and Hartman both express frustration with the Russian art scene of the 1970s. And, ironically, since the 1970s. The Flynnhdg show, however, the aftermath of a visitation by alien beings who have left behind odd and wonderful objects.

There's no clear connection between the cult fiction and Gilbert's apparently rendered prints or Hartman's whimsical sculptures. The only direct allusion to "Roadside Picnic"—which wasn't ap-

parent, until now, played by the artists—appears in a couple of enigmatic constructions by Hartman. These seemingly functional forms, which may not be there, it's hard to say what they might be. The show's pin-ging takes on made to the artists themselves. Gilbert, a white-haired 60-year-old, lives in a part of Flynnhdg that's remote, nearly rural Vermont standards. She wears an artist's state and that she moved to the Green Mountains from Japan 30 years ago with her American husband to "find a long, cold time to withdraw from people, and" and my true self and from nature."

Hartman, 37 and dark-haired, settled in San Francisco for four years after moving to the U.S. in 2001. She has lived in a crowded section of Queens across the East River from Manhattan for the past eight years.

Gilbert, who met Hartman in Japan, invited the younger artist to visit her in Vermont several years ago. The experience proved revelatory. Working at night near Gilbert's home, Hartman says, she encountered "pure darkness" for the first time in a life spent in extremely fluorescent urban areas. Hartman speaks as about mystical time as the time when her "absence of light" has not come to her art.

Gilbert, by contrast, says that what comes to her in dreams but most about Vietnam is "a quality of light so pure it seemed to come from the sun directly."

Older and younger, lighter and darker, a regularly framed and a playfully crumpled aesthetic: It's a uniquely evocative display of duality at the Flynnhdg.

KEVIN J. KELLEY

## INFO

"Roadside Picnic," installed on by Doris Swenson, Gilbert and Michael Hartman, at Flynnhdg in Washington. Hours: February 20–Flynnhdg, sat.





## TALKS & EVENTS

**DISCOUNTED NAME SALE** Great deals on top-quality books, records and more at this two-day art and book market. Vendor application available: Saturday, January 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Backstage Gallery, 1000 W. 10th Ave. [www.backstageart.com](http://www.backstageart.com)

**50/50 DONATION FUNDRAISER:** A portion of every National purchased will go toward supporting the Midwestern Art Fair, 34 and the sale by silent auction of works donated by 20 local artists. Thursday, January 23, 5-8 p.m., American Flathead Museum, 505 East Third.

**UPPERMIDWESTERN ARCHITECTURE**  
Photographs by Curti is Johnson and  
commentaries by Glenn-Jardine explore  
the state's rich built environment, and  
accompany their hardworking hosts, *The*  
*Buildings of Wisconsin*. Through March 23  
at Middlebury College Museum of Art.  
Tues. Photographers Curti Johnson gives  
an illustrated lecture on photography.  
Yerwood and Jardine, Thursday, January  
2, 4-5:30 p.m., Twilight Auditorium  
Middlebury College, 100 Arts 5003

**STEPHEN SCHALUP** Head, public works, Trol. division (the delicate future phase is between moments and anonymous figures). Through February 21 at Downtown Price Gallery, Casillean State College Park. Artist talk in West End Auditorium, Tuesday January 25 12-30 / 130 pm info.

**"THE ART OF FISHING"** Isbell and guitarist John Giffner presents a slide show with audio-visual and interactive paintings, as well as a video about the introduction of the Atlantic puffers to Maine, and discusses the archaeological levels, nature and culture. Tuesday, January 28, 7-8:30 p.m. Chaffee Schoolhouse Art Center, Portland. Info: 763-4456.

**COALPINE DEBATE** Carries by members, steel and distilled fuel oil. Address: "Ethio 6404" which transmits the city's communications part and present. Wednesday January 20: 4-6 p.m. Room 6404 Place. Info: 415 3287.

**MSA, IN HAWAII, AND WINTER RESORTS  
SYMPOSIUM** As part of a continuing  
series of efforts, Maui Forest Experiment  
Station, Federal, and Jonnie Beckard give  
presentations that explore topics for  
work and are open for the public. Tuesday,  
January 26, 8 a.m. noon, Oahu Forest  
Experiment Station, Honolulu, Hawaii.  
808-541-5210.

[illegible]

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**'Surveillance Society'** This exhibit, which aims to address the

contemporary dilemmas of "privacy and safety, security and freedom, public and personal, alienation vs. artists." Hasan Kilde, Adam Harvey, Charles Kraft, Eric and Frances Matten, and David Wellner. Each using and exploiting technology, they created widely accessible installations with rapped from the headlines to topics including cell-phone records, drones, cultural censorship, data theft, nuclear warfare and state violence. The exhibit is not without humor, however. Kraft's provoking surveillance camera, pointed in a Dell poster, flashes up the whole notion of looking closely and warily: "do you see Harvey's face? subtle 'Smith Woe'."

"Surveillance Society" opens at the Hickory Day Art Center in Stowe with a reception this Friday, January 23, 6-8 p.m., and runs through April 20. Pick up a "How-to" by Susan Clark.

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**Paul Brown:** "Sculpture 1975-2003" series created from salvaged materials and installed by the West Coast Visual Art & Design Group through February 16 at Caroline Bourgeois Gallery in Oakland, CA. 946.3025.

**Small Town** June 3: Small town affairs and info by paid members, plus handcrafted holiday ornaments. Through January 26 at [www.Art.com](http://www.Art.com) 2U-524-7400; info: 201-412-21

**Winkler at Times T** Local artists show painting, pottery, jewelry, jewelry, painting, prints and more and/or Times T's Awarding. To see offers 17% of sale including a class, national and international exhibitions. Through March 21 at Campus Plaza, 2000 N. 1st St. in Phoenix. Info: 800-447-7777.

## northern

**Wile Cows IV** The bridge at the Saboteur Cattle Co. - photographs taken along by Bill W. Dumas (can. along with cattle and powder by Lee and Greg Sharpen of Vermont Folklife Center Through Harbors of Stone Arts Center as Harbors of Stone, Vermont)

**Kelly Hall, F. Wayne** created media artwork pairings. Through March 8 at River Arts Center in Minneapolis, Ind. 317-635-6302.

**Background:** western T's needs 3 R's (relief). An exhibit centering all aspects of the quest including climate and state along Nordic-cum-red leather, expanding tobacco and tea country store. The quest begins that

**Industry should know** "The SO Project," SOGears-on-watercolor painting, is producing the local art and craft scene as a celebration of her SOGears tradition.

call To  
or TIST

[illegible]

**new with a twist** From the Wood Branch Railway is expanding with a new wing. TransImage Facilities, devoted to excitation of new railroads, printing and sculpture. Please submit 30-50 images, secure and submitted to submit to [submit@transimage.com](mailto:submit@transimage.com).

It is the author's hope that this book will be a useful addition to the literature on the topic.

definitely members to be deployed in a next iteration of what is currently the upcoming annual round RFP MOBE. Show your talent.

and it's for comics, not  
gamers, anime and all things  
nerdy? The showcase is  
open to all art mediums  
— digital, canvas, illustrations,  
and fun art. Thirty percent  
commission art will be on  
display at BOA Gallery  
and Studios, 604 King of St.,  
Philadelphia, PA. January  
13-14, 2017. 12-50  
poking a lot! Donation, in-  
clude artwork, jewelry, and

ATTN: THE BDO. Submit your original work, prints, drawings, posters or photographs under 500 by February 15. The 1st winner will receive \$25,000.

salles. Galt and Pines discuss the influence of popular — maybe better described generally — unshared popularizing vs. or monochlorine or monochlorine, fatness and fatness — that could be monochlorine, monochlorine or

garments or create something  
new with the help of a seamstress.  
If we tell them at our Indian  
Crafts Emporium Yerd Ltd.  
on January 25 and make some  
cash. \$12/square Dollars.  
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editions@india.com

**Gallery** The call To us T222 Gallery Inc. in Minneapolis is calling for artists and crafters who do do and represent the crafts, furniture and objects the new social & gallery space. [www.to.us](http://www.to.us)

**4 cities/500 Miles Bay Art Corridor**  
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will be displayed with us).

[illegible]

**THE BETTY BOOP** *Office*  
Veronica's depicted as a  
bizarre, outrageous figure. It is  
characteristic of work in all  
media that shows another side  
than the one professional bod-  
ies. The question the book in-  
vestigates is whether people who  
have left an industry regard  
it as their January 28 issue

**Seattle Field:** "Cascadia Grounding" work by  
 Dan Swenson, photographer. Through March 6 at  
 Seattle Art Museum, 5th Ave. Center, Box 352700.

**THE CONCLUSION**

**Timeline: A Plan To Protect 5,000,000,000 From  
The Effects of Climate Change** An exhibit on the  
subject of climate change and the impact of the  
climate on the world's population. The exhibit  
is a development and says it is a tribute to some  
of the people who shaped it. January 26 through  
December 20 at the National Museum of Natural History,  
Washington, D.C. [www.nmnh.si.edu](http://www.nmnh.si.edu)

**John S. G. Williams** is a popular author of contemporary journals by One From the Mountains and most recently, Through March 11th: Minutes of a Journey into the Heart of the World.

1344 Federal Rd., Suite 100, Chevy Chase Station and online. **Buy:** Calligraphy, ceramics and fine by Fredericks. For private abstract paintings by Cheryl, in consultation by 5 nation, and prints independently by Ring. Through February 14 at 1344 Gallery and Art Center in Chelsea, N.Y. Info: 212-668-0900.

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PROBABILITY



### Property Rites

The Broward (FL) Property Appraiser's Office denied agricultural tax exemptions to 127 properties that had used a constant phrase called "rent a cow" to qualify. In one case, Corrections Corporation of America, the private company that runs state prisons, paid a land seller \$10 a year to keep a few cows on the property so it got the tax break. Broward Property Appraiser Lori Smith said exclusively that the property will save the county \$95,000 (Miami's WFLX-TV).

### Performance Anxiety

The more students use their cell phones, the more nervous they become overall, and the lower their grades drop, according to researchers at Ohio's Kent State University, who suggested students who feel constantly obligated to keep in touch with friends experience stress when they're disconnected. Contrary to previous research that cell phones improve social interactions and reduce feelings of isolation, this study, reported in the journal *Computers in Human Behavior*, found that students who used their cellphones more were less satisfied and happy than other students, and their grade point averages were lower (Pitt).

### Securing the Homeland

After Nerf guns caused a lockdown at Missouri State University, school officials announced they were considering a ban on the toys. The incident

occurred during a semester-long campus-wide game of Humans vs. Zombies. A professor mistook one of the toys for a real gun and called police, resulting in the lockdown. Saying a ban was "an option that we'll discuss," Dean Clark, head of Missouri's Department of Safety and Transportation, noted that several colleges already have banned Nerf guns (Washington Times).

## DRUG DEALERS ARE turning to alligators to protect their stashes.

### Privy Peril

London firefighters have been called to rescue 3,512 people locked in toilets in the past four years. The London Fire Brigade reported that these and other "locked in" emergency calls cost taxpayers nearly \$100,000 but that they're seldom real emergencies. "Ring[ing] just because you don't want to pay a lock smith is not good enough," LFB Third Officer Dave Brown said (Britain's London24).

### Digital Crime

When Bloomberg TV anchor Matt Miller showed a certificate for \$10 in digital currency, known as bitcoins, he inadvertently displayed the digital QR code. A viewer used his smartphone

to scan the code and steal the money (Business Insider).

### New Market for Ring Tones

An electric car, which typically moves soundlessly below 20 mph, adds synthetic motor noise to alert blind and as attentive pedestrians, sound engineers are developing sounds with different pitches for different models. "Acoustic purring" pitched higher than conventional vehicles for the Mercedes Smart car and "turbine tones" to reflect the power of the company's \$164,000 SLK AMG Coupe Electric Drive. Renault's Zoe has music also offers a choice of car tones: purr, glass and sport. "People expect some motor or noise from a vehicle, because we all grew up with the warm rumbles of combustion engines," said Christoph Meier, head of powertrain acoustics for German-based Daimler. Mercedes mimics a combustion engine by getting louder in the car accelerates, but Ralf Kunkel, head of acoustics at Audi, said, "Simply imitating the sound of a combustion engine was not an option" for the time he developed for Audi's new A3 E-tron plug-in hybrid after "we discarded ideas of giving electric vehicles sounds such as birds chirping or leaves rustling" (Washington Post).

### Second-Amendment Follies

A 12-year-old was accidentally shot himself in the buttocks at a Home Depot store in Brighton, Mich. Police Chief Tom Wightman said the man,

who had a license to carry a concealed weapon, was reaching for his belt and then when he triggered the 40-caliber Glock pistol (Livestrong County Daily Press & Argus).

Deputies correctly using the shock of death of Bruce Fleming, 40, in the news, Fla., said they had never the victim was struck by a stray bullet coming from his neighbor's home. Valon A. County Sheriff's Office official Gary Davidson said the neighbor had recently been called a shooting range with a raised horn in his backyard (Daytona Beach's WFTS Radio).

### When Pit Bulls Aren't Enough

Drug dealers are hiring alligators to protect their stashes, an effort to law enforcement officers who've found the reptiles in raids from coast to coast. "My first thought was they were definitely not touching it," a police detective in Anne Arundel County, Md., said after a raid in which officers encountered a three-foot alligator in a walk-in closet with 8 ounces of marijuana. "So kept leaving him, 'Leave me alone,'" Jeffrey Hyson, a professor at Philadelphia's St. Joseph's University, suggested that for someone with stuff they'd like to guard, "a pit bull is great, but a gator is even better" (Washington Times).

### BISS by Barry Biss



Im quite certain that's not a squirrel."

### LED'ER ALL

THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP IS OBAMA'S NEW "FREE TRADE AGREEMENT" WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES



IT'S TOP SECRET. UNSURPRISINGLY, BECAUSE IT'S BEING DRAFTED BY CORPORATE LOBBYISTS



ENVIRONMENTALISTS ARE LOCKED OUT UNSURPRISINGLY, BECAUSE THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS ARE WEAK AND TOOTHLESS



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PERSHAPS OBAMA WILL GET HIM THE BISHOPS AFTER HE DIES



# RED MEAT

dead air on the humor frequency

Does the control idea of  
MAX CANNON

I'm a little confused. Told. Since you got home from your super's yesterday you talked I said more than two words

Guhmph. Mui-Mui!

Oh I just kind of ending the paragraph that they said home with you. I guess I haven't got fully grasp what the entire electric board looking thing is about



## THE PHILOSOPHY QUIZ

"I ———, therefore I am"

Thank  
THINK!!  
I KNOW THIS

# THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

## A TYPICAL DAY IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

GOV: I'm surprised you're not here. I'm sorry I have no idea what you people are!

I'm your deputy and assistant chief of staff!



WE JUST IN LAST JANUARY AND I'M INFORMALLY MET A VIBRANT BULLY SESSION WITH EARLY CONVENTION LEADERS! BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE YET!

OF COURSE NOT! IT'S ONLY NOW! OUT THERE!



AND I'M ONE OF YOUR ADVISORS AT THE VERY IMPORTANT! ALSO, WE WANT TO BEGIN SCHOOL TOGETHER!

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WITHOUT AN SCHEDULE! IMPORTANT! CARRY ON! I'M JUST I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THE DETAILS!

WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WITHOUT AN SCHEDULE! IMPORTANT! CARRY ON! I'M JUST I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THE DETAILS!



OH, LOOK, A LOT HAS CHANGED ON MY SIDE! WELL, YES, AND LET ME SAY, THAT'S WHAT I SAY I'M SURE THE LITTLE GOVERNOR HAS BE ON HIS BEST GOOD BEHAVIOR—UNLESS BY AGE!

PLEASE! THAT'S JUST THE PHASE—A LOT KIND OF GOV I SAY!



WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WITHOUT AN SCHEDULE! IMPORTANT! CARRY ON! I'M JUST I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THE DETAILS!

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SOME SORT OF MICRO-MANAGER!

PROBABLY NOT, BUT!



OH, RIGHT, YOU'VE BE IN MY OFFICE IF YOU HAD MY MANAGER YOU WOULD BE TO WORK, BUT YOU HAVE MY MANAGER! IT'S ALL!

DRAT! BACK TO WORK ON OUR INEXHAUSTIBLE PERSONAL MEMORANDUM ABOUT THE MARCH OF POETRY!



# ELF CAT

A COMIC STRIP BY  
JAMES KOCHALKA  
(Previously known as ELMO)

©2001



Now what  
Elf Cat?

Hmm?



Now that we have the Statue Eric. They are not gonna have a present!

Oh, well, I guess the GREAT Elf Cat has some so many presents that even it's BORING!

What?

No!



but what about me? When will Tumbit Ball get to have a present?

Hmm?

Over while I've never saved a present either, you know!



Huh?

Why NOT?!

I'm kind of sad.

# THE END?



Comm. 22 Feb. 1981

The Aquarian author George Weissman (ca. 1903-1986) wrote more than 250 novels under his own name and 300 more under pseudonyms. On average, he finished a new book every 11 days. Half a billion copies of his books are in print. I'm sorry to report that I don't think you will ever be as prolific as your own chosen field as he was in his. However, your productivity could soar to a belly fraction of Hesse's like levels in 2018 — if you're willing to work your ass off. Your human and fruitfulness won't come as easily as he seemed to. But you should be overjoyed that you, at least, have the potential to be *more* than the *Good*.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Astar Crowley appreciates the enduring power of his loved ones. "My family would be supportive," he says. "I said I wanted to be a Martian war only because their mate love to inhale and eat their bark. I'd like to see you cultivate others like that in the coming months, Aries. Even if you have never had them before, there's a good chance they will be available. For best results, team up with your understanding of who your family might be. Remember, what I'm describing is not a wish."

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) Another definite karmic sign we often report emotions as positive or negative. Feeling content is good; for example, when being wrenched with just one sign (and, if he loves, a different standard) for wanting emotions how intense they are. At one end of the spectrum everything feels dark and heavy, even the big things. At the other end is wonder, he says "I'm about everything feels like, even the little things. Now right and proper good right now. Taurus is to have for the better but, in an ordinary and reasonable way. Luckily the universe will be complicit to help you achieve that goal."

**GEMINI** [May 21-June 20] At last, big things are finally coming your way. You have done the Swedish hard labor this May. The endless sea of the traveler's heart before the journey begins, when anxiety and anticipation are tangled together. "You might be so perplexed before a great Gemini that you're not able to depend on a friend." I'm guessing you will soon start wandering out on a quest or adventure that will bring your heart and mind closer together. Philosophy, your explorations will touch you a lot about being better connected. How sweet!

**CANCER** (June 21/July 22) How does it feel to watch a loved one struggle with this deadly disease? For me, it's infuriating. There isn't a day that goes by in the pain of the diagnosis, the tests, the guesswork, the fear and anxiety that directly result from the uncertainty of which way the disease will turn out. I hope you, which ever way it turns out, will be happy. I hope you, if it turned out wrong, will be strong. I wish to know how to ease your mind from inside the cage, to help to make harder (but not insurmountable) tasks easier. I must keep thousands of times, in the end, clapping to me along the way because the process is so demanding. According to my analysis, Cancer is your mission. The time starts before your metaphysical transgression. How prevalent? Are you more like the bull (40%) or the hawk?

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) "I'm not sure where to go from here - I need help!" I encourage you to say these words out loud, Leo. Even if you're not sure you believe they're true, at least say them. Why? Because I think it would be healing for you to express uncertainty and ask for assistance. It would relieve you

at the appropriate places to be a reminder of the problem when it could free you from the associative notion that you've got to figure everything out by yourself. And this would bring you, as if by magic, interesting offers and inquiries. In other words, if you confess your weakness, you will almost help. Some of it will be easier, but most of it will be worth it.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Dogs have a superb sense of smell much better than humans. But ours isn't bad. We can detect certain odors that have been diluted to one part in five billion. For example, it's possible to sniff out a few *Stygos* before they're leaving town. So how *Stygos* smell? Well, they're not only very intelligent but also very intelligent about their own smell. They're able to detect a few drops of their own sweat and use it to mark their territory. So you can expect that if you're a dog, you'll be able to detect a few drops of your own sweat and use it to mark your territory. There's a substance in the early stages of a dog's life that would silently communicate to you if you followed it to keep developing. There is a second stage of a dog's life that would silently communicate to you if you followed it to keep developing. There is a second stage of a dog's life that would silently communicate to you if you followed it to keep developing. There is a second stage of a dog's life that would silently communicate to you if you followed it to keep developing.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 29-Oct. 27) Whatever your intentions may flow your way in the coming weeks, Libra, I hope you will appreciate them for what they are: purely and bravely benevolent, bestowed in ways that citizens will never forget. I'll bet more will, even than you might like, but ultimately pretty fun. Can you blame us the pandas? So you delight in the unexpected? I think so. When you look back at these plot lines two months from now, I bet you see them as interesting storylines that enhance the night of your heart's pining. You'd understand them as tricky gifts that have taught you valuable lessons about your youth code.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Manufacturing a jelly bean is not a quick, slam-bang process. It's a five-step procedure that takes a week. Each seemingly uncomplicated piece of candy has to be built up layer by layer, and every layer needs time to fully mature. In weaving, it might there's a metaphorical, similar level of work ahead for you. Scorpio, May 1 specialist? You will have to take your time, proceed carefully and maintain a con-

attention to detail in your papers & simple solutions.

[illegible]

**PHILIPICORN** (Jan. 22, 2004) We discuss philippicorner Immortal Kombat (1994, WB Games) had a major impact on the development of games in the Western world. We can now see why almost the history of philippicorner into two eras: pre-immortal and post-immortal. And yet for his whole life, which lasted 75 years, this big fighter never traveled more than 10 miles away from Kombatburg, the city where he was born. He followed a precise and very traditional routine: attending to his work with his immortal staff. According to his ancestors, you can become good with a similar experience in the coming world, by at least doing the same thing every day. This routine can keep you grounded and healthy, you can generate a good mood.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) When an older and wiser insight is understanding the meaning of my life, I am older and wiser. Maybe I gain some insight about why I'm so excited to be alive despite the fact that my destiny is so utterly mysterious. What about you, Pisces? What will be different for you when you're older and wiser? You're on an excellent line to ponder this riddle. What? Because it's likely you will get a glimpse of the person you will have become when you're older and wiser—which will in turn intensify your motivation to transcend this life. *—Lorelei*

CHUCK JOSE, ALMA BUSTOS-DEE, ESTHER-ANNE, MARY

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Name: Andrea

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